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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF  
THE AFRICAN GROUP ON AGENDA ITEM 57:**

**OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE PLENARY OF THE  
SECOND COMMITTEE DURING  
THE 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008,  
NEW YORK**

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**Madam Chair,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 57: operational activities for development. The African Group aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group attaches great importance to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and reiterates the need to adhere to its fundamentals, namely its universality, neutrality; as well as its voluntary and grant-based nature.

The African Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Secretary General towards developing a comprehensive and sustainable United Nations system-wide financial data and reporting system, and thus contributing to an improved analysis of progress, allowing the identification of gaps with the view to better addressing the shortfalls in development assistance. The Group believes that well managed operational activities for development would help the United Nations system better serve African countries in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In this regard, the African Group commends the Secretary General for the improvements made in the annual financial report and for the successful efforts towards harmonizing statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities.

**Madam Chair,**

The Group is concerned by the decrease by 2% in contributions received by the United Nations system for operational activities in 2006, as well as the decline in the share of core contributions to the United Nations funds and programs in recent years. We therefore express our support to the attachment to the General Assembly resolution 62/208, as it stresses that core resources remain the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, mainly due to their untied nature.

The African Group equally appreciates the Secretary General's efforts towards provision of adequate, predictable and expanded base of United Nations development assistance. We concur with the Secretary General's view that the level of the organization's resources has to be commensurate with the mandates and demands placed upon the system, and also supports the call for donor countries to increase their funding to the United Nations operational activities, notably through the provision of core resources.

The African Group is however concerned over the decline in the ODA/Gross National Income ratio from 0.31% to 0.28% between 2006 and 2007. We urge developed countries that have not yet done so to redouble their efforts to honor the commitment of providing 0.7% of GNI to development assistance and, 0.15% to 0.20% of GNI to support development efforts of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

**Madam Chair,**

We wish to note that the contributions from non traditional donors to the United Nations system have become increasingly important, especially with the growing importance of South-South cooperation. Multi-donor funds or pooled resources to finance specific activities of the funds and programs constitute a remarkable contribution to the provision of additional and predictable resources for development assistance. Further, the African Group believes that

more efforts are needed to strengthen the impact of country-level programs and ensure they are based on national priorities.

The African Group also welcomes the report of the Secretary General on the “implications of aligning the strategic planning cycles of the United Nations funds and programs with the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities”,

As clearly stated in paragraph 97 of resolution 62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, it is important to ensure that strategic plans of funds and programs are consistent with and guided by the agreed main intergovernmental parameters on operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

Indeed, we believe that this alignment will contribute towards enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and relevance of the United Nations system in delivering development assistance. We are of the view that it should also take due consideration of the need for aligning the UN Development Assistance Frameworks with the development program cycles of countries concerned in order to respond more effectively to the development needs and national priorities of the developing countries.

The two options presented by the Secretary General and the detailed analysis in various scenarios on the implications for aligning the strategic plans of funds and programs with the comprehensive policy review will undoubtedly allow the General Assembly to make a well informed decision on these matters.

A decision on this particular issue is crucial and should contribute to move the current UN reform process towards achieving greater coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system in delivering development assistance.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group notes the summary statement of outcomes and the way forward of the seminar of the pilot countries on “Delivering as One”, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in May 2008, as a contribution to the debate on the system wide coherence.

The Group further welcomes the adoption of a resolution on the process of System-wide Coherence at the end of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. According to the resolution, UN membership will continue its work on System-wide Coherence, particularly focusing on the issues of “Delivering as One,” harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Let me conclude, **Madam Chair,** by reiterating the African Group’s support to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and reaffirm our confidence in the current reform process aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system to enhance delivery at the country level. We trust that the discussions during this session will boost our aspirations in this regard.

**I thank you.**