

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. KATLEGO
BOASE MMALANE, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF
THE FIRST RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE
FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 31 March 2020)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group at the closing of the 1st resumed part of the 74th Committee.
2. The Group wishes to express its appreciation for your guidance and leadership of the Committee during these unusual times where the novel coronavirus pandemic has tested our resolve and compelled us to be innovative as well as receptive of new working practices and methods. Our thanks equally go to the members of the Bureau who worked tirelessly and at odd hours to keep their

6. We managed to reach consensus on some items while the consideration of others, particularly those that were not time-bound, would be taken up in not too distant sessions. Disappointingly, we had to also take no action on a few items.

7. With particular regard to the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Group wishes to thank delegations for their cooperation and compromise in approving the commitment authority for the quarter ending 30 June. Going forward, we anticipate that a more reliable and predictable budgetary mechanism would be adopted for the Mission. It is our hope that the Organization will remain