

## **AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT ON THE CHAIR'S NON-PAPER ON STREAMLINING THE METHOD OF WORK**

Thank you Chair

1. The African Group would like to express its appreciation for your efforts in compiling the non-paper on streamlining the method of work of the committee and its two sub committees. As previously expressed during the LSC and STSC, the Group views this as a timely exercise to assist COPUOS work in a more efficient and organized manner.
2. The membership of the committee has grown significantly and so have the issues that demand our timely and decisive attention. Streamlining the agenda with the aim of productivity and time management is indeed welcomed. In this regard, we welcome the proposal to merge interconnected agenda items as proposed by the Chair for the STSC and LSC and agreed upon by the committee. This is indeed meaning progress. In the same spirit, we hope to get consensus on DQS.
3. The African Group had previously called for Member States to be afforded the opportunity to deliver their statements ahead of other stakeholders in a consecutive manner as is the current practice in other UN meetings and we are pleased to see this suggestion reflected in your non-paper and express our sincere appreciation.
4. The Group had also requested there should not be parallel meetings to the plenary to accommodate smaller delegations which cannot be in different meetings simultaneously and is pleased to see this suggestion being practiced with success during this session.

Chair,

5. The Group is also pleased to note that the non-paper makes specific reference to accommodating language interpretation for informal consultations where possible. As also previously indicated, we can be more productive and substantive when we speak in our mother tongue. We hope with the streamlining of the agenda items, more time would be available for informal consultations with interpretation services.
6. Lastly, while the Group welcomes efforts to reduce paper wastage, it also is also aware that some delegations have a preference for hardcopies and in this regard, has noted the novel suggestion put forward that delegations indicate their preference upon accreditation. This could be a viable solution that accommodates the needs of various delegations.
7. We look forward to constructive discussions and wish to reiterate our appreciation for your efforts to improve our working methods in COPUOS. African Delegations may wish to add additional suggestions in their national capacity.

We thank you