

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

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AG Hand-Over Notes

July - August 2019

AFRICAN GROUP NEW YORK

HANDING-OVER NOTES

Between

**H.E Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Africa to the United Nations**

Out-going Chairperson

And

**H. E. Mr. Omer Mohamed Ahmed Siddig
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations**

Incoming Chairman

July 31, 2019

OUTLINE OF AFRICAN GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2019

During the month of June 2019, the African successfully pursued a wide range of activities under the distinguished leadership of, **H. E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations. Under his stewardship, the Group held two meetings focusing on strategies to promote Africa's interests and priorities during the forthcoming 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A. MEETINGS OF THE GROUP:

The Group held 2 meetings during the month of July and considered agenda items as reflected hereunder:

The Chair held his first meeting with the Coordinators of African Experts in the Main Committee

July 22, 2019:

1. Briefing on the outcome of the African Union Summit, held in Niamey, Niger, July 2019.
2. Report by the African Members of the Security Council, (A3) on their official trip to Washington D.C.
3. Briefing on the activities of the African Members in the Security Council, for the month of July 2019.
4. Other matters

July 31, 2019:

1. Strategy Session on Coordination of the UN Agenda during the 74th Session of the UNGA:
 - (i) Briefing by H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly on preparations towards UNGA 74th Session.
 - (ii) Developing African Group Strategies for enhancing Africa's Global voice and impact:
 - a) Briefing by the Permanent Representative of Ghana on the Preliminary Programme of the High Level Dialogue on FfD
 - b) Briefing by the Permanent Representative of Liberia on the Proclamation of 28 September as the "International Day for the Universal Access to information;
 - c) Africa's Co-Moderators for the SDG Summit (Letter dated 23 July 2019 addressed by the PGA)
2. Other matters

B. CANDIDATURES ENDORSED:

- **Ms. Susan Mwangi, Minister Counsellor**, Permanent Mission of the Republic Kenya to the United Nations, has been designated to complete Ms. Koki Muli Grignon's remaining term as Vice-President in the Bureau of UN-Women

C. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

The Chair delivered a number of statements on behalf of the Group both in the Deliberative Committees and the United Nations General Assembly Plenary meetings.

D. ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019

The month of August is a critical month in terms of the Group's final push in preparation for the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly. Given that the various Coordinators of African Experts have concluded their mandates and whilst awaiting the new Coordinators to assume functions for the 74th Session, the incoming Chair would, unfortunately not have the privilege to interact with the Coordinators as a standard practice.

By way of anticipated activities, the in-coming Chair may wish to be guided by the following:

1. FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE 2019 ANNUAL RETREAT OF AFRICAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES:

The 2019 Retreat of African Permanent Representatives provided a unique opportunity for the Group's reflections on leveraging its impact at the United Nations as well as its leadership of the forthcoming General Assembly Presidency. One of the key recommendations emanating from the retreat is the convening of quarterly strategy sessions of the group for better planning and coordination of the Group's activities at the UN including the implementation of the retreat recommendations. The African Group meeting held July 31, 2019 is instructive in that regard. **The in-coming Chair may wish to be guided by the attached Implementation Matrix of the Retreat.**

2. AFRICA'S EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP DURING THE FORTHCOMING HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Building on the discussions of the Group at its meeting held on 31 July, a number of issues require further follow up and attention by the Group, notably:

- **Integrating Africa's concerns and priorities in the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development;**
- **Selection of Africa's Co-Moderators (3) for the SDG Summit for transmission to the PGA on or before August 16th;**

3. ENHANCING AFRICA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH NORDIC COUNTRIES:

The in-coming Chair may wish to follow up on the decision of the African Group to establish a Core Group to interphase with Nordic countries comprising:

- Chair of the African Group for the Month;
- Rep of the Chair of the Union;
- 2 Member States from each of the sub-region
- AU Observer Mission as Secretariat

4. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE A3:

In accordance with the established practice, the A3 is expected to brief the African Group at the start of each month on the program of work of the UN Security Council as well as activities of the A3. **The in-coming Chair may wish to include this item on the agenda of the Group.**

5. PENDING CANDIDATURES:

The following candidatures remain pending:

- ✓ **Africa's Representative in the Bureau of ECOSOC for the 2020 Session**
- ✓ **Africa's Chairmanship of the Commission on Social Development**

6. REQUESTS FOR BRIEFING:

ANNEXES:

ANNEX I:	Statements by the Chair.
ANNEX II:	Candidatures.
ANNEX III:	Requests for briefings.
ANNEX IV.	Coordinators of the African Group Experts of the Main Committees

2019-07-31

Handing over between Permanent Representatives of South Africa and Sudan.

African Ambassadors Group in New York

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