



# General Assembly

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## Fifty-eighth session

Agenda item 17 (a)

### **Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

#### **Letter dated 6 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for November 2003, to make reference to the letter dated 9 October 2003 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations, in the latter's capacity as Chairman of the African Group for October 2003 (see annex), and to further inform you that I have been mandated by the African Group to reiterate, hereunder, the African Group's position with regard to the three candidates reflected in document A/C.5/58/5 as Africa's candidates to fill the two seats allocated to Africa in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the elections to be held on 7 November 2003:

(a) It is a well-known fact at the United Nations that the selection of African candidatures to fill vacant seats in the various organs of the United Nations is based on the African Group's established rules and procedures and objective criteria applied by the African Group Candidatures Committee to effect the principle of equitable geographical distribution among the five subregions of Africa, thereby enabling all African countries, big or small, to have a chance to serve in various organs of the United Nations;

(b) On the basis of the above-mentioned objective criteria and in accordance with the African Group's established rules and procedures and the principle of equitable geographic distribution, Africa's three seats in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions are allocated as follows:

- One seat: West Africa
- One seat: On rotation between eastern and southern Africa
- One seat: On rotation between Central and northern Africa

The two vacant seats for 2003 were therefore allocated as follows:

- One seat for West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire was endorsed for re-election by the African Group and subsequently by the Summit of the African Union held in Maputo in July 2003
- One seat on rotation between eastern and southern Africa: it was the turn of southern Africa to encumber the seat on rotation, and Botswana was endorsed by the African Group and subsequently by the Summit of the African Union held in Maputo in July 2003

The African Group is therefore reaffirming its position as reflected in the letter dated 9 October 2003 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Chairman of the African Group for October 2003: only two candidates were endorsed by the African Group and the Summit of the African Union, namely, Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana) and Manlan Narcisse Ahounou (Côte d'Ivoire — for re-election).

I would therefore be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 17 (a).

(Signed) Joe Robert **Pemagbi**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations  
Chairman of the African Group for the Month of November 2003

**Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Letter dated 9 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for October 2003, I have the honour to make reference to the letter dated 4 April 2003 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Mauritania in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for April 2003, under cover of which was transmitted a list of candidatures endorsed by the African Group for a number of United Nations bodies, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for which Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire were endorsed by the African Group for the two seats to be filled by Africa.

In that connection, I am transmitting herein the names submitted by the two Governments as their respective candidates for the elections to be held during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly: Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana) and Manlan Narcisse Ahounou (Côte d'Ivoire) (for re-election).

(Signed) Stanislas **Kamanzi**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Rwandese Republic to the United Nations  
Chairman of the African Group for the Month of October 2003