

73rd United Nations General Assembly

Fifth Committee

INDIA STATEMENT

**Agenda 140 & 149: Scale of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the UN
& Scale of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of UN Peacekeeping
Operations**

**Mr. Mahesh Kumar
First Secretary
10 October 2018
New York**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

We align our statement with the one delivered on behalf of G77 by Egypt and with the one delivered on behalf of BRICS by South Africa.

We thank Ambassador Bernardo Greiver, Chair of the Committee on Contributions, for introducing the Committee's report as contained in document A/73/11.

We also thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller, for introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans; and on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236.

Madam Chair,

The Organization must be provided with sufficient financial resources. Our insistence on efficient utilization of resources and the entire current reform exercise would not mean much if assessments are not paid on time. All the members of the United Nations should honour financial obligations arising out of the membership in full, on time and without any conditions.

More than US\$3.3 billion assessed amount is outstanding. This is roughly one third of the annual assessment of the Organization. This hampers efficient deployment of resources in the service of mandates given by the member states. This situation put those member states that would have benefitted from the

efficient implementation of mandates, and the member states that would have paid their assessments on time to a serious disadvantage.

Madam Chair,

We note that contributions of several developing countries including India are due for significant increase, based on the current methodology. We are committed to fulfilling our financial responsibilities. India has, in fact, paid in full its regular budget assessment for the year 2019 in advance.

Madam Chair,

Despite the upcoming appreciable increase in our assessed contribution we believe that the current methodology has worked well and must continue.

The principles of “capacity to pay” and the “low per capita income adjustment” are fundamental criteria in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. They are not negotiable.

Other core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessments, such as base period, Gross National Income, conversion rates, gradient, floor, ceiling for Least Developed Countries, and debt stock adjustment must be kept intact.

Madam Chair,

We are concerned at the efforts by some delegations to introduce the element of maximum ceiling in the peacekeeping scale.

The peacekeeping scale must continue to clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The current system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale for developing countries based on low per capita income must continue.

At the same time, India calls for reform in the Security Council, and reiterates its readiness to fully assume financial responsibilities arising out from India’s permanent membership of the Security Council.

Madam Chair,

As the largest cumulative Troops and Police contributor to the peacekeeping operations, we are acutely aware of the role of adequate resources in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates.

The failure to honour financial obligation in full towards the peacekeeping operations has over the years resulted in the prolonged and unacceptable situation of some closed peacekeeping missions ending in financial deficit.

Troop and Police contributing countries, who render the greatest service in maintaining international peace and security, are forced to wait endlessly for their payments. There are large amounts due to India both from the closed and active peacekeeping missions.

Madam Chair,

We support the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions that developing countries facing genuine economic difficulties and were not able to temporarily meet their financial obligations, must be permitted to vote during the current session of the General Assembly.

Madam Chair,

Organizations who have received enhanced status akin to observer states must also assume same financial obligations as observer states.

Madam Chair,

We would like to assure you of our constructive engagement during the deliberations on the issue.

I thank you, Madam Chair.