

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement by
The Delegation of
The Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

Before
The Fifth Committee

On Agenda Item 122 : Scale of Assessments

Delivered by :
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Mr. Chairman,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, allow me at the outset to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election. My delegation hopes and trusts that under your guidance, Member States will make this a fruitful session. I would also like to thank Mr. Bernardo Greiver, the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for presenting the Committee's report of its 66th session (A/61/11) and to express our appreciation to Mr. Mark Gilpin, the Chief of the Contributions Services for introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the multi-year payment plans (A/61/68).

Mr. Chairman,

While aligning itself to the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to stress the following:

We are of the view that for the UN to play a greater role in international affairs, the Organization must have a sound financial basis, which in the final analysis, can only be realized if every member state conscientiously fulfills its financial obligations to the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter. We stress that all Member States should pay their assessed contributions on time, in full, and without conditions.

However, we recognize that in some cases severe circumstances may prevent some Member States from fulfilling their obligations, and we believe that such cases must be treated with the respect and sympathy they deserve. In this context, we would like to express our support to the Committee on Contributions' recommendation to permit those Member States to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its 61st session.

In Addition, Egypt, while encouraging the submission of multi-year payment plans, believes that such plans would not be a factor in the Committee on Contribution's consideration of requests for future waivers under Article 19, and emphasizes that the submission of those plans is merely a voluntary mechanism that Member States in disadvantaged situations can undertake if they are in a position to do so.

Turning to the methodology of scales of assessments, We reiterate our long-standing position that the principal element for the methodology should continue to be the "capacity to pay" which enjoyed the general consensus among all Member States ever since the establishment of the Organization and has been reaffirmed by resolutions of the General Assembly year after year. Egypt is looking forward to explore options in these regard, in order to enhance the current methodology to better reflect the principle of the capacity to pay and to analyze the distortions that the current methodology causes to this principle

It is our belief that the low per capita income adjustment and the debt burden adjustment are the best expression of the principle of capacity to pay in assessing contributions, as they take into account both a country's aggregate national strength and its per capita income which reflects the actual capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and willingness carefully to consider the issues involved. We wish to reiterate our hope that this agenda item will be dealt with in a spirit of cooperation, aiming at achieving consensus on this important issue.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.