



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 122: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS**

**PRESENTED BY**

**AMBASADOR SIMEON ADEKANYE  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**NEW YORK, 9TH OCTOBER 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you, Nigeria's congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Fifth Committee for the 61<sup>st</sup> session. There is no doubt that with your wealth of knowledge and experience, you will be able to manage and pilot the work of this Committee effectively so that it accomplishes the numerous tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly.

We also congratulate the other members of the bureau and wish to assure you of Nigeria's support for a successful discharge of your mandate.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Our statement today merely seeks to further underscore some vital principles that have endeared the Nigerian people to the United Nations.

Nigeria values the role, the United Nations plays and will continue to play in the world. We are not oblivious of the fact that it requires all Member States working together and empowering the Secretariat to discharge our many important mandates to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

Let me, in this regard, express my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Bernardo Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for his introduction of his Committee's report, A/61/11 and Mr. Mark Gilpin, Chief of the Contributions Services, for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans, contained in document A/61/68. These reports will be discussed in greater details in future at which time we may make detailed comments on the issues contained therein.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria believes that it is the responsibility of the entire membership of this Organization to provide it resources for it to fully execute any mandate we choose to entrust to it. To this end, Nigeria will continue to pay its assessments in full and without condition. The Committee on Contributions has the arduous responsibility of providing us vital information to help us to collectively adopt a methodology to be employed in establishing the future scale of assessments. This is anchored on an important principle of the "capacity to pay".

There are other equally important principles that should be preserved in any methodology of scale of assessments as earlier enunciated in the statement of the Group of 77. Though it is not our intention to dwell any further on this element at this time, we however wish to restate that low per capita income adjustment and debt burden adjustment are important factors that impact directly on a country's capacity to pay and therefore should remain integral elements of the scale methodology.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria supports the requests put forward by some Member States in difficult situations for exemption under Article 19 of the United Nations Charter and the reasons advanced for those requests. Nigeria agrees with the Committee on Contributions, that the failure of the Central African Republic, Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Somalia and Tajikistan to make the requisite minimum payments was due to conditions beyond their control.

There is also a need for this Committee to consider the request of Sao Tome and Principe with understanding. We trust that we can collectively agree to approve these requests so as to pave way for the nine Member States to exercise the right to vote and participate fully in the work of the General Assembly until the end of the 61<sup>st</sup> session. We also wish to congratulate those Member States that not only submitted payment plans but also honoured their commitments under those plans. This is a welcome development worth encouraging but it should continue to remain voluntary as envisaged by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to assure you of the readiness of the Nigerian delegation to participate actively and constructively in the work of this Committee throughout this session.

I thank you.