



STATEMENT PRESENTED IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

by

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ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

**AGENDA ITEM 122:
SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS**

**Sixty-first Session of the
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Mr. Chairman:

On Agenda Item 122 – Scale of Assessment, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the countries of the Rio Group namely: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country Guyana.

I would like to thank Mr. Bernardo Greiver, whose experience and skills allowed the Committee to reach a valuable and helpful outcome despite the absence of a resolution by the General Assembly to guide its work, for the introduction of the report of the 66th Session of the Committee on Contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

The commencement of our work in this Session with the consideration of the apportionment of the expenses necessary to sustain the work of our United Nations, puts to the test in short order the strength of our collective resolve in the enterprise of renewal of the United Nations to function as an efficient and effective global institution of relevance in the 21st century.

That members must bear the expenses of the organization based on their capacity to pay is the fundamental and unequivocal principle that underlies the assessment of the scale of contributions of members. Inherent in the General Assembly's elaboration of the principle of capacity to pay as the prime basis for determining the contribution of members is the recognition of sovereign equality of status but difference of endowment – a concept pivotal to the idea of United Nations itself.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the efforts of the Committee in taking into account various approaches in its deliberations in order to submit proposals for consideration by the Assembly.

On this basis, the Rio Group wishes to make some observations on some specific issues.

As we have previously noted on several occasions, the issue of large scale-to-scale increases is of particular significance for countries of the Rio Group. Notwithstanding, member countries have made great efforts to fulfill their obligations to the organization.

We believe that the use of reliable economic data that adequately and accurately reflects the real performance of countries as the basis for the assessments could prove helpful assist in this regard. We urge the Committee to continue to pay special attention to this issue.

In this sense, we consider that the use of the purchasing parity power does not reflect the capacity to pay of Member States and does not contribute to having a scale which could be reliable, verifiable and comparable.

We reaffirm that the next scale should be based upon several elements that were an integral part of the scale in the past: low per capita income adjustment, a debt-adjustment based on the debt stock approach and a maximum assessment rate of 0.01 percent for Least Developed Countries.

The Rio Group concurs with the Committee's recommendation for special consideration for the countries that have indicated extenuating circumstances that impacted on their ability to fulfill obligations of payment and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting on a voluntary basis a multi-year payment plan. Our Group supports the action in accordance with Article 19 to allow countries to be permitted to vote in the Assembly until the end of the sixty-first session.

In addition, we support the efforts oriented to reduce the distortions of the current methodology, including undertaking a review the ceiling in keeping with the Assembly's decision of 2000.

Finally, on the question of the unpaid assessments of the Former Yugoslavia, we sincerely hope that we could reach an agreement on the matter as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

It is important to keep a good atmosphere of work in deciding on the scale of assessment for the 2007 – 2009 period. The Rio Group is committed to playing its part in contributing to our realization of this objective.

I thank you.