



**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, FRANCISCO ARIAS CÁRDENAS IN THE
2° SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THE 61°
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ITEM 122: SCALE OF ASSESMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF
THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 9 October 2006

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the 5th Committee, as well as the other members of the Board. This Committee is presently facing great challenges and we are sure that our work is in good hands.

We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, Mr. Bernardo Greiver, and Mr. Mark Gilpin for the presentation of the reports that we are considering.

Mr. Chairman,

We completely adhere to the intervention of his Excellency Ambassador Kumalo in the name of Group of 77 and China, as well as to the intervention of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Guyana, Mr. George Talbot in name of the Rio Group.

The scale of assessment is an issue which we consider of main importance. We have closely followed the negotiations on this issue with respect to a new Scale which will take effect next year. Even though there are positions which are difficult to reconcile, we should make an effort to find a methodology in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and the corresponding provisions of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly. In this sense we reiterate the need that the elements of the methodology should abide by the principle of



Capacity to Pay established in Article 160 of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

The present methodology counts with a series of elements which have been included throughout the years. The spinal chord of the methodology is the Gross National Income, which is a universally accepted indicator of the incomes of the Members States. Besides this there are elements which seek to correct the differences which exist in the level of development of the different economies, which are a result of an economic model which has failed to answer the need of a more just distribution of the World Income. In this sense it includes elements such as the debt burden adjustment and the low per capita income adjustment, which are indicators which clearly determine the capacity to pay of the Member States, in particular developing countries.

On the other hand there is an element in the methodology, which has been a unilateral imposition of the Member State with the highest contribution in nominal terms, which distorts the principle of Capacity to Pay. We say "in nominal terms", since in relative terms it is the smaller contribution.

The 22% ceiling was a unilateral measure imposed in the year 2000 under the pretext that the Member State, which has the greatest contribution in nominal terms, would honor the debt it has pending with the Organization. However we see that the financial situation of this Member State with the Organization has not improved since then. Otherwise, if this element were to be maintained in the following methodology, for each 100 dollars in the contributions of the Members States, 11 dollars would be destined to the payment of the percentage of the contribution of which this Member State is exempted. This is the equivalent to a subsidy of the contribution given to that Member State on behalf of the other Member States including developing countries. This is not only contrary to the principle of capacity to pay, but also against the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We consider that this is an opportunity to review this element in the methodology which benefits one member of the Organization and goes against the interests of the rest of the Organization.



We would like to take the opportunity to inform that our delegation has put itself up to date with the outstanding contributions to the Regular Budget, to the Peacekeeping Operations, the International Tribunals of Rwanda and Ex-Yugoslavia, the Capital Master Plan, and with the Funds and Programs of the United Nations. As a Developing Country, at times we have faced difficulties in keeping up to date with our payments; however, our country is committed to complying with the obligations established in the United Nations Charter, including the payment of its financial commitments with the Organization.

Mr. Chairman

The Report of the Committee on Contributions refers to a series of proposals set forth in the debate of the last Meeting of the Committee. We reiterate once again that we are opened to ideas and proposals which will allow improving the present methodology. We believe that this should be the objective and not to distract efforts on elements which have been stated previously and which move away from the principle of Capacity to Pay. We should also center ourselves on realistic proposals, based on existing, reliable and comparable data.

Regarding to the requests for exemption under article 19, we agree the recommendation made by the Committee on Contributions to accept the requests made by 8 Members States. Also, we support the request made by Sao Tome and Principe.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express our commitment to work in a constructive manner during the present period of sessions.

Thank you