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**INTERVENCIÓN DEL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE
EMBAJADOR OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ**

**A NOMBRE DE LA COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS LATINOAMERICANOS Y
CARIBEÑOS
CELAC**

**Quinta Comisión, Segunda Parte Sesión Reanudada
66° Periodo de Sesiones de la Asamblea General**

**Naciones Unidas, Nueva York
7 de mayo del 2012**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE
AMBASSADOR OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ**

**ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
STATES
CELAC**

**Fifth Committee, Second Resumed Session
66th Period of Sessions of the General Assembly**

**United Nations, New York
7TH Mayo 2012**



Misión Permanente de Chile
ante las Naciones Unidas

PRESIDENCIA
PRO TEMPORE



CELAC
Comunidad de Estados
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) at the second resumed part of the 66th session of the Fifth Committee.

I congratulate you on your leadership during the first resumed session and wish you every success in guiding this second resumed session and pledge CELAC's cooperation in the forthcoming negotiations.

I thank you and the Bureau of this Committee for preparing the Programme of Work and the Secretariat for preparing document A/C.5/66/L.33 on the status of preparedness of documentation.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the items included in the Programme of Work of this part of the session, dedicated mainly to the Administrative and Budgetary aspects of financing Peacekeeping Operations, CELAC will give special attention to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The Group reiterates its strong support for MINUSTAH and reaffirms that this Mission must be provided with the resources to properly fulfill its mandate and to stay as long as it is necessary and welcomed by the Haitian government and people. We are committed to helping our Haitian brothers and sisters onto the path of stabilization, sustainable peace and development, and, to this end, CELAC countries contribute the majority of the troops as well as police personnel to MINUSTAH.

In this context, CELAC believes that any reductions in MINUSTAH's budget should be based on the situation on the ground and not on arbitrary, across-the-board cuts.

More generally, the current dimensions of United Nations peacekeeping and its role in the maintenance of international peace and security make it imperative that we continue working to strengthen the operational and organizational structure of peacekeeping missions. Therefore, CELAC considers it necessary to discuss the financing of each mission based on its own merits and needs, without falling into generalizations that may affect the proper fulfillment of their mandates.

CELAC also attributes great importance to cross-cutting issues. While we welcome the progress made in the payment of reimbursements to Member States, we consider that there is still room for improvements. Refunds must be made in a timely and efficient manner, and in this regard we encourage the Secretariat to continue to seek practical ways to address this issue and give equal treatment to all Peacekeeping Missions.

Moreover, CELAC wishes to express its concern that under current conditions offered to Member States, the availability of human and material resources of troop-contributing countries, especially developing countries, can be seriously affected. The continuing inflation and the sustained increase prices appear to impose an unprecedented financial burden on troop contributing countries. In this context, the Group notes the review of the methodology for reimbursement rates for troop costs approved by the General Assembly in Resolution 63/285, currently under implementation, and considers important the work performed by the Working Group on Reimbursement of COE, although its recommendations in this regard still fall short our expectations.

In this sense, we take note with satisfaction of the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group and of the single additional payment to troop-contributing countries during the period from July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

We expect that the work of the Senior Advisory Group will reinforce the commitment of Member States to this essential activity of the Organization and ensures its sustainability in the medium and long term.

CELAC requests the Senior Advisory Group to work pragmatically and to make all possible efforts to reach a positive outcome, in order to facilitate the decisions that will be taken by the Member States. In this sense, given the urgency of considering the need of updating the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and to address the difficulties experienced by Member States in order to establish a methodologically sound mechanism for reviewing the reimbursement rates in the future, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 63/285 of 30 June 2009, it is important that the Group makes all possible efforts to conclude its work in a timely manner, in order to contribute to the deliberations within the Fifth Committee. We look forward for the result of the work of the SAG, which should be the basis of a long term solution to address the concerns expressed by Troop Contributing Countries in order to avoid as far as possible the need to consider the establishment or extension of one-time measures.

Mr. Chairman,

CELAC would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to the Global Field Support Strategy and its belief that this initiative could bring positive effects to the effectiveness and efficiency of UN field missions. In this regard, we will closely participate in the negotiations and look forward to a constructive dialogue with other delegations and the Secretariat in order to ensure the highest quality and efficiency of services provided to missions on the ground.

In reference to the Special Political Missions, CELAC would like to reiterate its dissatisfaction with the fact that the General Assembly was unable to appropriately consider the recommendations contained in the different reports related to the financial arrangements and backstopping of Special Political Missions during its main session last year. This is an issue of great importance for the countries of our region, in particular due to the distortion in the regular budget caused by the SPMs, a problem that will tend to worsen with time. Therefore we would

like to also reiterate that, in our view, the SPMs, in particular those with a field presence, are very closely related to peacekeeping operations. CELAC will address this issue in greater detail in the context of the upcoming presentation of the Reports on the SPM budgets.

Mr. Chairman,

The Members of CELAC were informed of the International Civil Service Commission's (ICSC) request to the Secretary General to put forward for the consideration of Member States an addendum to its 2011 report concerning the decision taken by the General Assembly, following a recommendation of the ICSC itself, on the "Rest and Recuperation" policy. We are willing to consider the issues and revised recommendations that are contained in that Report during this Second Resumed Session, as the documentation is made available to the Committee. Nevertheless, CELAC Members will address only the concerns raised in the Additional Report of the ICSC, since the Group is not ready to undertake a general discussion or re-open any other elements of the decision taken by the General Assembly in the Main Session.

We do so because we have been assured that those issues and recommendations are of an urgent nature, and that, if not promptly addressed, the situation may seriously hamper the capabilities of the Organization to deliver on its mandates in some of the most difficult environments.

However, the Members of CELAC regard it as highly unfortunate that Member States were advised in a manner that was not optimal, and that the implications of the decisions of this body were not fully weighted from a technical perspective. We make a strong call for this situation not to be repeated in the future, in this or any other item of the Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to proceed as efficiently as possible during the second resumed session, CELAC wishes to stress once again the importance of having the relevant documentation in good time. The late issuance and late introduction of reports impair the efficiency of the Committee despite the significant efforts made over the years to enhance its work.

The Group also wishes to emphasize the importance of respecting the date of completion of this session, which is scheduled for June 1. CELAC encourages all delegations to make efforts not to go beyond this deadline.

Finally, CELAC would like to reaffirm its commitment to make a positive contribution to this second resumed session in order to reach consensus that will lead to a satisfactory conclusion for all.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.