



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by

Ambassador Zamir Akram

Permanent Representative of Pakistan

to the United Nations, Geneva

on agenda item 134

entitled

“Proposed Programme Budget for the

Biennium 2012 – 2013”

at the Plenary meeting of the Fifth Committee of the General

Assembly

New York, 28 October 2011

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Pakistan, please allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Fifth Committee. My delegation is supremely confident that you will ably lead this Committee in the discharge of the important responsibilities and my delegation assures you its full support and cooperation in this regard.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation on the “Programme Budget for the Biennium 2012-2013” yesterday and we look forward towards constructive engagement on all issues.

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made yesterday by Argentina on behalf of Group of 77 & China. We highly appreciate and value the guidance and leadership provided by the Argentinian delegation to the work of the Group of 77 & China in this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Addressing the development needs of member states is one of the cardinal areas of activities of the United Nations and its agencies. The programmes that relate to poverty alleviation, promotion of universal primary education, basic health services and other high priority areas should receive adequate allocations of financial and human resources.

3. Pakistan shares concern of an overwhelming majority of the member states regarding the arbitrary 3% cut imposed on programme managers. We share their apprehensions that an arbitrary and indiscriminate approach towards this issue would only jeopardize the interest of the developing countries and exacerbate their existing socio-economic problems. We would like to add our voice to the call for strengthening the United Nations at this time of economic and financial crisis by increasing and strengthening the scope of its role in context of the development strategy and in its efforts towards assisting the poorest segments of the world population.

4. My delegation would therefore, call for balancing the programme budget for 2012-2013 towards development related activities.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We are deeply concerned to note the perennial imbalance between the assessed and voluntary contributions. This is particularly evident, for example, in section 24 on human rights. The Secretary-General's proposed resources for human rights for biennium 2012-2013 amount to \$147 million, whereas the projected extra-budgetary resources are double this amount i-e \$257 million. Similarly, the staffing resources as reflected in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for biennium 2012-2013 indicate that 344 posts are funded through regular budget, whereas 765 posts are financed from extra-budgetary resources.

5. Priority-setting in the programs and activities of the Organization is an intergovernmental activity. Too much reliance on extra-budgetary post and non-

post resources has a detrimental effect on implementation of mandates approved by legislative bodies. Authority and flexibility granted to the Secretary General for deployment and redeployment of human and financial resources should not be used to undermine the priorities determined by the Member States.

6. Moreover the voluntary contributions should be subject to the same level of intergovernmental scrutiny and oversight in order to enable the General Assembly to monitor and evaluate the outputs, impacts and improvements in programme delivery.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We note with interest the ongoing implementation of OHCHR organizational effectiveness programme aimed at redressing the critical weaknesses identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in its report (A/64/203). We will seek further updates on the progress achieved with regard to the questions of accountability and transparency in OHCHR as well the impact of the implementation of the organizational effectiveness programme.

8. We must be mindful that any internal review of the work processes in OHCHR should be in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and in lines with its rules and regulations governing the budget and other management matters.

9. We also look forward to hearing from the Secretariat regarding the impact and intended benefits derived from strengthening of OHCHR New York Office.

10. Pakistan delegation would engage constructively in the discussions on finding improvements in the work of OHCHR with a view to ensure that the principles of accountability and transparency are deeply rooted in the work of the Organization.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.