

New Zealand Mission to the United Nations



Te Māngai o Aotearoa

600 THIRD AVENUE 14TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016-1901, USA
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: <http://www.nzembassy.com/newyork>

United Nations General Assembly Sixty-Sixth Session

Item 136: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

**Statement by Mr Paul Ballantyne
on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand**

24 May 2012

Check against delivery

Mr Chairman.

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We thank the Secretariat, for its presentation on October 14th on the financial situation of the United Nations – as well as for the update provided to us today.

CANZ delegations are encouraged - particularly in the current global financial environment - by the increased number of Member States who met their obligations in full across all budget categories by the end of 2011. However, we note with concern that the actual level of outstanding assessments had increased, by some \$330 million dollars or 12%, compared with the previous year.

Mr Chairman,

CANZ delegations would like to stress the consequences of unpaid assessments that penalise both Member States who have paid their assessments in full and on time, and troop contributing countries that are left waiting for the reimbursement of costs they have incurred. The latter being a particular problem for MINURSO and UNMIT due to the absence of sufficient cash in the special accounts for these missions. Likewise, we are disturbed that the debt to Member States is projected to increase by some 28% by the end of this year as compared with the same time in 2011.

Mr Chairman,

CANZ delegations will continue to demonstrate our commitment to the work of the United Nations by paying our dues in full, on time and without condition. We continue to urge all Member States to fulfil their Charter obligations and do the same. We would further encourage eligible Member States to consider submitting multi-year payment plans as a possible mechanism for addressing their budget arrears.

Improving the financial situation of the United Nations is not exclusively a matter of providing the Organization with the resources it requires. As Member States, we also have a shared responsibility to ensure that those resources are managed effectively.

In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General over the past twelve months to increase financial discipline within the Organization and his efforts to enhance oversight and accountability. CANZ delegations welcome all such initiatives to increase the efficiency of the Organization and make better use of available resources to deliver on agreed mandates.

Mr Chairman

For the United Nations to respond to the many pressing global challenges to peace, security, and prosperity, all of us must work closely together to ensure that we align our collective aspirations with the limited resources available.

To conclude, we express our gratitude to those Member States who are fulfilling their Charter obligations, and we again implore others to do the same.

Thank you Mr Chairman.