



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Sul Kyung-hoon

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Item 136 : Improving the financial situation of the UN

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Management, for his presentation of May 14 on “Improving the Financial Situation of the UN.” I also wish to thank Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, Maria Casar, for updating the financial status since May 14, through A/66/521/Add. 1.

2. Today’s discussion on the subject surely reminds us that it is both a solemn obligation and a privilege of the Member States to pay their assessment in full and on time. Of course, this commitment goes with the understanding that the Secretariat should strive for the effective and efficient use of precious resources, especially since many Member States have gone through financial difficulties for the past few years.

3. It is encouraging to note that the number of Member States meeting their obligations in full has increased in the case of regular budget compared to the previous period. In fact, the number has been steadily on the rise for three consecutive years, marking 136 countries in 2009, 138 in 2010, and 143 in 2011, respectively. Moreover, we are pleased to see that the cash situation in 2011 improved in most areas, despite unpaid assessments being higher than 2010. Taking into account the fiscal constraints that Member States are facing, I believe that these figures are indicative of Member States' sense of responsibility to the Organization and to its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

4. As far as my country is concerned, we have been continuing our best effort to fulfill our financial obligations to the UN. We have already paid the regular budget, Tribunals and Capital Master Plan in full. With regard to the PKO contributions, my country has experienced some difficulties in paying them in a timely manner, as our domestic budget process can not easily accommodate the unpredictable timing and amount of the PKO assessments to the following year's budget.

5. In spite of these challenges, my Government is fully committed to reducing our outstanding PKO assessments to the greatest extent, as early as possible. As such, this year, my government has allocated a substantially higher amount for PKO contributions compared with 2011. We expect that in the second half of the year, we will have significantly lowered our outstanding PKO assessments.

Mr. Chairman,

6. My delegation believes that the task of the United Nations can be best served when Member States willingly contribute, including financially. In this vein, I reassure you of my Government's dedication to fulfilling our due share on time, and in full.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.