

# **PAKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY MR. SAHEBZADA A. KHAN, MINISTER,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
ON AGENDA ITEM 132: "IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS"  
(NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2012)**

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Since I am taking the floor for the first time, at the outset, I would like to warmly congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of this important committee. We offer similar felicitations to all other members of the Bureau.

2. We thank the outgoing Bureau, in particular Ambassador Tommo Monthe of Cameroon, for the very able stewardship of this Committee during the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

3. Let me also express my gratitude to Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Department of Management for his active engagement and briefings to the Fifth Committee, including his comprehensive presentation of 11<sup>th</sup> October on financial situation of the United Nations. This is reflective of his personal commitment to the work of this Committee. Pakistan delegation believes that such interactions contribute to enhancing transparency and foster the environment of trust between the stakeholders.

4. We would also wish to thank Mr. Lionelito Berridge, Secretary of the Committee on Contributions and his team for providing excellent services and facilitating the Member States in payment of their assessed contributions to the UN.

5. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. The global financial climate remains complex. Although there are hopeful preliminary signs of recovery but the difficulties that the Organization faced last year with the payment of assessed contributions, have not completely relented. While some improvements are made, there is a significant amount of assessments which still remains unpaid, giving rise to a resource gap of \$1.85 billion as a total amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations, and unpaid assessed contributions to regular budget amounting to \$855 million at 5 October 2012. The financial situation of International Tribunals including the newly established International Residual Mechanism has also consistently declined with higher unpaid assessments in an amount of \$63 million at 5 October 2012 compared to similar cut-off date of last year.

7. We are particularly concerned over the increase in the level of debt owed to Member States contributing troops, police and equipment. The debt has grown rapidly and the amounts owed to TCCs/PCCs would remain at \$460 million by mid-October 2012 which is a level still higher than cut-off date of previous years.

8. This not only impacts negatively the liquidity and overall financial health of the Organization but also exacerbates the operational challenges for entire peacekeeping architecture of the United Nations, and compromises the Organization's credibility in effective implementation of mandates.

9. We understand the procedural difficulties that Ambassador Takasu referred to in his 11<sup>th</sup> October presentation, which lead to delays in the payment of assessments to peacekeeping budgets. The Member States with capacity to pay should, however, be able to settle their unpaid dues within certain time period.

10. Pakistan stresses that this systemic problem needs to be resolved permanently. We sincerely hope that the negative implications of persistent non-payment of assessments would be taken seriously by the concerned Member States with the capacity to pay, and we trust that the Secretariat would live up to the challenge and continue with its efforts to ensure that the debt owed to the Troop Contributing Countries is reimbursed in full, on time, and as matter of priority including the elimination of existing backlog of death and disability claims.

11. It is encouraging to note that despite the rise in the level of unpaid contributions, compared to the previous biennium , the organization was able to meet its cash requirements, without borrowing from other sources, primarily the Working Capital Fund and the UN Special Account.

12. We note with satisfaction the positive development that payments above \$1.86 billion have been made out of a total of \$1.87 billion assessed under the Special Account for Capital Master Plan. At the same time, we hope that the issue of cost overruns will be addressed during the consideration of relevant agenda item.

13. Lastly, I wish to reiterate that questions of resources cannot be hedged on the pretext of financial constraints. Under-resourced Organization can neither deliver nor be effective. As responsible Member States, we must, therefore honor our financial obligations enshrined in Charter and ensure payment of assessed contributions on time, in full, and without conditions.

Thank you.