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**STATEMENT BY DOCTOR MASHABANE, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 132 : IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL
SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
NEW YORK, 18TH OCTOBER, 2012**

Mr Chairman,

As this is the first time during the 67th Session that the South African delegation is taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. My delegation believes that through your able leadership you will successfully facilitate a positive outcome of this session.

My delegation would also like to express appreciation to the Bureau of the 66th Session under the leadership of HE Mr Michel Tommo Monthe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations.

The South African delegation wishes to thank Mr Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary General for Management, for his presentation on the financial situation of the United Nations delivered on 11 October, 2012 as well as today's updates and introduction of the report contained in document A/67/522.

Mr Chairman

My delegation wishes to associate fully with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Our delegation finds it encouraging that during the period under review, 31 Member States have paid all their assessments in full, which represents an improvement from the 18 Member States during the previous period.

We would like to once again re-emphasise the legal obligation of all Member States to bear the financial expenses of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter as well as their capacity to pay and to ensure that the assessed contributions are paid in full, on time and without pre-conditions. We recognise that special situations may arise where some Member States are unable to meet their obligations due to genuine difficulties and we extend our sympathetic understanding to those delegations.

Mr Chairman,

While we note with encouragement the improvement in the payment of contributions, my delegation remains concerned that a large number of outstanding contributions remain. We believe that efforts should be continued to address this situation.

With regard to peace-keeping, my delegation notes with encouragement the reduction in the level of unpaid assessments compared to the previous year. At the same time, we would like to once again emphasise the need for the Secretariat to expedite settlement of all outstanding claims including reimbursement to all troop contributing countries as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion I would like to assure you of South Africa's continued commitment to meet its financial obligations towards the United Nations in full on time and without pre-condition. My delegation stands ready to participate in constructive deliberation on this important agenda item.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.