



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN
NATIONS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LIBRAN N.
CABACTULAN, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, AGENDA ITEM 145: SCALE OF
ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT
OF THE EXPENSES OF UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, FIFTH
COMMITTEE, 9 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr Chairman,

1 I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam on Agenda Item 145 entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations".

2 We thank Mr. Chanda Ramanathan, Deputy Controller for introducing the report of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 as contained in A/67/224.

3 ASEAN Member States align themselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this agenda item. All UN Member States should fulfil their financial obligations to the Organisation so as to ensure that the UN is provided with the necessary resources to undertake these operations.

4 We note that developing countries are assuming more responsibilities for peacekeeping financing. In a reflection of the changes in the relative economic situations of UN Member States, the contribution rates of most developing countries, including ASEAN Members, will increase based on the current methodology while the contribution rates of many developed countries will decrease. Although ASEAN Member States will take on an increased share of UN expenses based on the current methodology, we remain committed to do our part to ensure the efficient functioning of the UN's

peacekeeping operations.

5 ASEAN Member States emphasise that the permanent members of the Security Council have special responsibilities in the maintenance of peace and security, which must be considered in connection with their contributions to peacekeeping financing. Under the current methodology, the permanent members of the Security Council absorb the discounts that are applied to other Member States which have more limited capacities to pay. ASEAN Member States reaffirm the principle that permanent members of the UN Security Council should continue to be assessed at a higher rate for the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations than for the regular budget.

6 ASEAN Member States also believe that peacekeeping financing has to recognise the special circumstances of developing countries, which includes small, vulnerable economies that may have a misleadingly high per capita income because of their small populations. There must be a clear differentiation between the responsibilities of developed countries and developing countries which recognises the limitations on developing countries' capacities to pay. Developing countries should not shoulder the same burdens as developed countries. As such, no developing country should be categorised above Level C in the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations. Level C should continue to serve as the marker between developed and developing countries.

7 We are concerned by the automatic graduation of developing countries into Level B, which is a category for developed countries. Automatic graduation goes against the principle set out in Resolution 55/235 that there should be a clear differentiation of burden-sharing for peacekeeping financing between developed and developing countries. Unfairly graduated developing countries are obligated to assume developed countries' burdens for peacekeeping financing although their capacity to pay is more limited. ASEAN Member States call for the reassignment of all developing countries that are in Level B to Level C or below.

8 ASEAN Member States are prepared to engage constructively with all delegations on this agenda item. Thank you Mr Chairman.