



*The  
Bahamas*

STATEMENT

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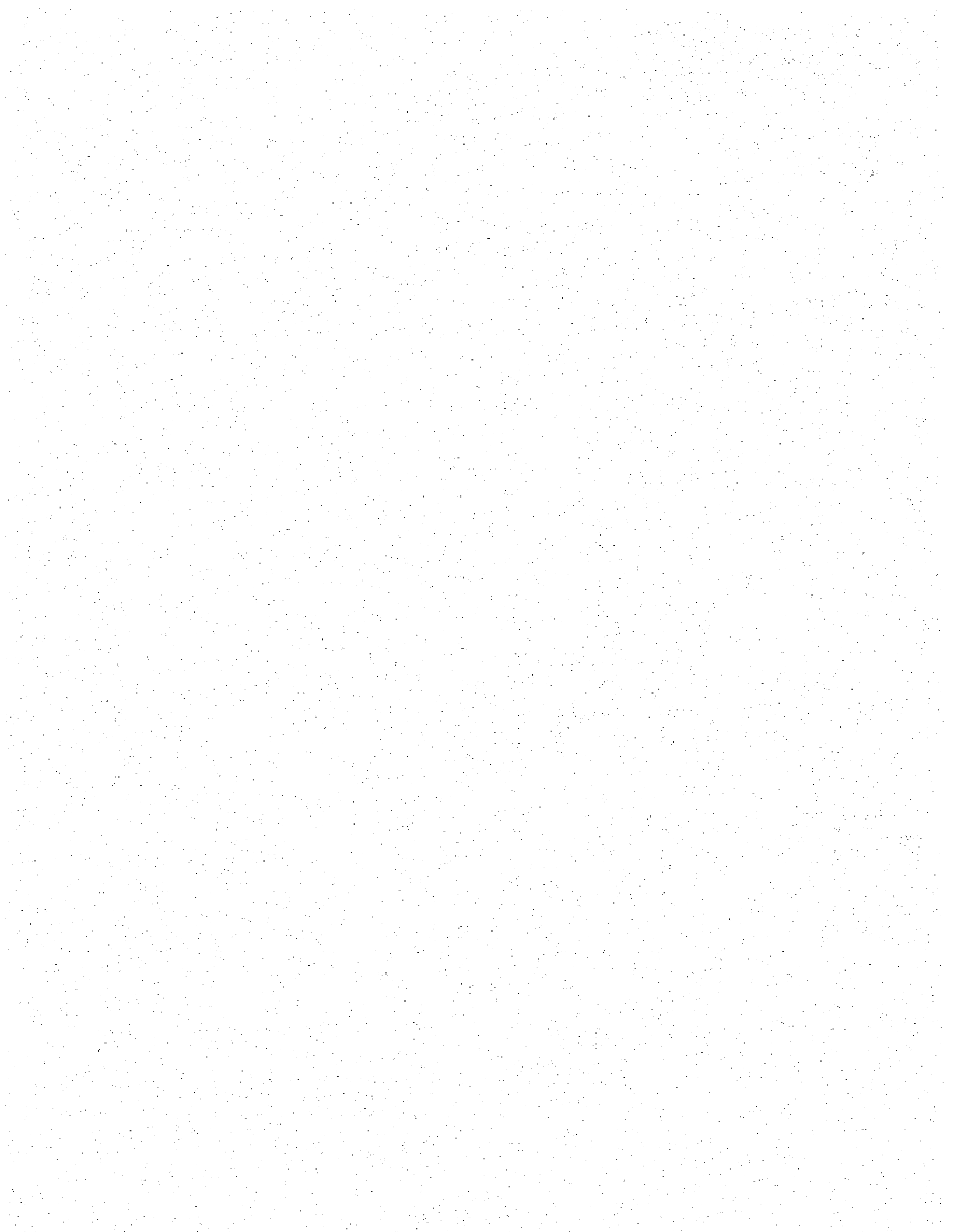
H.E. Dr. Paulette Bethel, Permanent Representative of The  
Commonwealth of The Bahamas to The United Nations:  
On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

On the Occasion of Offering Remarks to the Fifth  
Committee on Agenda Item 145 Scale of Assessments for  
the Apportionment of the Expenses of the United Nations  
Peacekeeping Operations

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United Nations  
Conference Room NLB 3

New York



Mr. Chairman, it is my honor and privilege to speak on behalf of CARICOM, in respect of the deliberations of The Fifth Committee in the main part of the Sixty Seventh General Assembly and more specifically regarding agenda item 145 - the Scale of Assessments for the Apportionment of the Expenses of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Chairman, please accept our sincerest congratulations to you and the members of the Bureau on your election. Similar appreciation is also afforded to the H.E. Mr. Tommo Monthe, the demitting Chairman and other Members of the previous bureau for their able stewardship during the Sixty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly.

CARICOM would also wish to use this occasion to honor those peacekeepers that have served, and who continue to serve in the most dangerous of circumstances, particularly those who would have given their lives for the most worthy of contributions, the cause for the attainment of global peace. To those noble individuals, we value your service and we offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM reaffirms its support for the G-77 and China in the context of these negotiations and aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM is of the view that the United Nations Scale of Assessments for Peacekeeping financing should take into account the particular circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and those of us with small populations and a "perceived" high per capita income. Our economies are open and our countries are among the most vulnerable. It is against this background, Mr. Chairman, that we make the compelling argument

that per capita GDP/GNI should not be used as the predominant measure in determining the levels of assessment for peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM opposes any attempt towards the further graduation of developing countries or the elimination of Level C. These actions in fact defy the consistent application of the principle of ‘capacity to pay’ and the concept of fair and just burden sharing.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM, NAM and the G77 and China have consistently reiterated the view that no developing country should be categorized above the level of C in the peacekeeping scale. CARICOM strongly supports the position that there should be a clear differentiation of burden-sharing responsibilities between developed and developing countries. The creation of level C represented the clear delineation between the developed and developing countries. This category should be maintained and expanded to accommodate other developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM is very conscious that our actions or inaction in this Committee have repercussions beyond it. Indeed, they affect our citizenry as well as our countries’ commitments beyond the confines of this organization.

Accordingly, CARICOM reiterates its support for the position of the Group of 77 and China which rejects any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contribution of developing countries. We also encourage a process which is efficient, pragmatic and inclusive. As such, this process should offer the highest standards of transparency, operating strictly within the duly authorized framework of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM anticipates amicable negotiations which will establish quantitative parameters, and will give true definition to the qualitative considerations of our countries in order to offer a real account of our vulnerabilities and other relevant economic and social dimensions.

Mr. Chairman, CARICOM has been directly and negatively impacted as a result of the political construct which was arrived at in 2009. This construct created an unfortunate and blatant anomaly whereby The Bahamas was graduated to category B, a category which should be reserved for developed countries. Other CARICOM member states are also in danger of following a similar path.

We therefore request that corrective measures be taken to restore the balance between developed and developing countries. It is especially important for small, vulnerable countries such as ours to be protected against impositions which are not fair or equitable.

Mr. Chairman, being small should not make us invisible or insignificant.

CARICOM pledges its support to your Chairmanship, to the Members and to this process. You can be assured of our continued active participation in the work of this Committee.

On behalf of CARICOM, I thank you.