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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

**THE 5TH COMMITTEE FORMAL MEETING AT ITS FIRST RESUMED
SESSION ON THE SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) ON TROOP COST;
AGENDA ITEM: 146: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDETARY ASPECTS OF
FINANCING UNPKOs**

NEW YORK

MARCH 8, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset welcome you and all the delegates to the first resumed session of the 5th Committee. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also recall that our deliberations during the fall session were comprehensive and intense. However, the Committee could not reach consensus on a few agenda items that remain outstanding. We are hopeful, under your able guidance, we will be able to surmount those barriers this time. Our gratitude is also to those who continue to volunteer to steer the 5th Committee process despite stretched hours in a spirit of collegiality and inter-governmental settings. They deserve all our respect.

Mr. Chairman,

The recommendations of Secretary General's Senior Advisory Group's (SAG) on troop cost are before the Committee now for its consideration. SAG was set up on the basis of General Assembly's Resolution 65/289 following a protracted engagement on this matter. SAG's mandate and composition were well spelt out in its founding resolution. My country was a member of this group alongwith other troop contributing countries besides others who represented financial contributors, regional representatives, and persons of eminence selected by the Secretary General. This group was ably supported by the Secretariat staff to whom we owe our thanks.

Mr. Chairman,

UN has dealt with troop-cost reimbursement rates for decades now. This engagement is characterized by phases ranging from informal-methods prior to 1973, proactive engagements thereafter till 1991, deliberative phase that lasted from 1991 to 2001, and a passive phase thereafter. SAG happens to be the singular lone attempt to address this issue in a focused manner.

Mr. Chairman,

The group's recommendations present an opportunity to resolve this long-pending issue. The option to postpone it further is simply not available to us. Moreover, it is imperative that we make every effort to consolidate this partnership that underpins peacekeeping. All peacekeeping stakeholders

today have a duty and responsibility to preserve this vital instrumentality by rising above national concerns along the way peacekeepers have done for decades beyond their national call for duty.

Mr. Chairman,

The challenge this Committee is faced today is financial and more. Its resolution will necessitate political will and an express commitment to UN peacekeeping.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, as a member of the Senior Advisory Group and a longstanding TCC let me assure you of my delegation's commitment in this matter.

Thank You.