



PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN
AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)**

**70th Session of the General Assembly
MAIN SESSION**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

ITEM 138:

**“SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE
EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS”**

New York, October 8th, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on agenda item 138, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations".
2. At the outset, let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Fifth Committee for the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. We are certain that under your leadership, we will complete our work successfully and in a timely manner.



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3. CELAC would like to thank Ambassador Bernardo Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for introducing the report of the seventy-fifth session of the Committee, as contained in document A/70/11. We also thank Mr. *Abner Benridge*, Chief of the Contributions and Policy Coordination Service, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans, as contained in document A/70/69.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Community reaffirms its position that all Member States should fulfill their legal obligations to bear the expenses of the Organization, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the requirement to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. We stress that the special and genuine difficulties faced by some developing countries that prevent them from temporarily meeting their financial obligations should be fully taken into account and that the General Assembly must be responsive to such difficulties. The Community thus emphasizes the importance of dealing with the issue of exemptions under Article 19 on an urgent basis.
5. The Community has carefully reviewed the requests by the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, and Yemen for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter. We are convinced that their inability to make the payments of their assessed contributions was due to conditions beyond their control. We therefore endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions to allow these countries to vote during the 70th Session of the General Assembly.



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6. With regard to the consideration of the scales of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, CELAC reaffirms the importance of the principle of “capacity to pay” as the main guide for our deliberations. CELAC members believe that, the current methodology used for the preparation of constitutes a sound basis for apportioning the expenses of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Through the scale of assessments, the commitment of the delegations to enforce the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations in the daily work of the Organization is fulfilled. Therefore, the scale constitutes one of the main elements to ensure the equitable participation of all Member States in its activities. In this context, CELAC members will be actively engaged in consultations on these agenda items while stressing the Community’s belief that at present no changes to the methodology are needed, since it has continued to work well since its inception.
8. The Community recalls that in resolution 67/238, the General Assembly approved the scale of assessments for three years, from 2013 to 2015, on the basis of the current methodology. While our Community considers that no changes to the methodology.
9. Are needed, we also stress that the current maximum assessment rate, or ceiling, was fixed as a political compromise and is contrary to the principle of the “capacity to pay”. In this context, we urge the General



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Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 55/5 C.

10. With regard to the scales of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of the Peacekeeping Operations, CELAC stresses that peacekeeping operations are an important and noble function of the United Nations. We therefore emphasize that all peacekeeping operations should be provided with all the necessary resources in order to carry out their activities, in order to deliver the mandates that the Security Council has authorized.

11. CELAC considers it of the utmost importance to reaffirm the principles that underlay the financing of the peacekeeping operations as contained in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 30 January 2001.

12. In view of their special responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security, the Permanent Members of the Security Council should continue to shoulder all of their respective premiums for peacekeeping financing.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The Community appreciates the efforts made by those Member States that have submitted multi-year payment plans and that have honored their commitments under those plans. We reiterate that multi-year payment plans should remain voluntary in nature and should take into account the financial situation of the concerned Member State. They should not be



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used as a way of exerting pressure on Member States that are already in difficult circumstances, and should not be included as a factor when considering exemption under Article 19 of the Charter.

14. The Community will work for the requested exemptions to be promptly adopted, so that Member States involved can effectively contribute to the work of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

15. CELAC reaffirms its willingness to continue to honor its financial obligations to the Organization, and we will do it in the framework of a methodology for the scale of assessments that best reflects the economic reality to our countries.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.