



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



ON

*AGENDA ITEM 138: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT
OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS*

and

*AGENDA ITEM 147: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT
OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS*

IN THE 5TH COMMITTEE OF THE 70TH SESSION
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 8TH OCTOBER, 2015

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), on the agenda items concerning the scale of assessments on the United Nations Regular and Peacekeeping budgets. The agenda items before us are of fundamental importance not only to the Caribbean but to the wider international community, as they concern the means by which the Organization is equipped with predictable and adequate resources needed to fulfill the high purposes of its Charter.

The Member States of CARICOM fully align themselves with the statements delivered by the delegation of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China and the delegation of Ecuador, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

At the outset, let me thank the chairperson of the Committee on Contributions, Mr. Bernardo Greiver, for introducing the report of the 75th session of the Committee on Contributions, as contained in the document A/70/11. We appreciate the crucial work undertaken by the Committee on Contributions in providing technical advice to the Fifth Committee regarding the items under consideration. The Community also thanks Mr. Lionelito Berridge, Chief of the Contributions and Policy Coordination Service, for his oral introduction of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 as contained in document A/70/331, and on multi-year payment plans as contained in the document A/70/69.

Mr. Chairman,

It is CARICOM's view that the financial stability of this Organization depends on the equitable participation of all Member States in shouldering the financial responsibilities associated with the execution of its mandates. In this connection, CARICOM underscores that the principle of capacity to pay should remain the fundamental criterion for the apportionment of the Organization's expenses.

It is our view that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessments such as base period, gross national income, (GNI), conversion rates, low per capita income adjustments (LPCIA), gradient, floor, ceiling for Least Development Countries (LDCs) and debt-burden adjustment must remain unchanged and that any proposal which aims to effect an increase in the contributions of developing countries should be rejected.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM attaches particular importance to the financing of peacekeeping operations, as these operations assist in fulfilling our collective responsibility to resolve threats to international peace and promote peace and security in keeping with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. With regard to the consideration of the scales of assessments for the peacekeeping budgets, CARICOM shares the belief that all peacekeeping operations should be provided with the necessary resources in order to carry out their highly valued work.

Notwithstanding, we maintain that the special circumstances of developing countries and the difficulties they face in meeting their financial obligations deserve special consideration. We also believe that the peacekeeping scale should reflect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries, giving due consideration to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries with small populations, that may have nominally high per capita income, which feeds a perception that they are high income countries. Due consideration must also be paid to the special responsibilities of the Permanent Members of the Security Council as reaffirmed by General Assembly Resolution 55/235.

The placement of developing countries above Level "C" in the peacekeeping scale is not acceptable as it fails to represent a fair and balanced treatment of the economic realities of Member States. At present, one of our Member States, The Bahamas, has been regrettably placed in Level B - a level which should be reserved for developed countries. In this connection, we reiterate previous calls for corrective measures to be taken to restore the balance between developed and developing countries.

We reaffirm that developing countries with small, trade dependent and exceptionally vulnerable economies cannot and should not be expected to bear the same financial burden as our developed partners. This is the case for some CARICOM countries that grapple with the challenges posed by high levels of public debt. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the English speaking Caribbean countries have debt to GDP ratios which average 70%, above the 60% threshold that many economists view as unsustainable. In fact, several have debt to GDP ratios in excess of 100%.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM anticipates that the ensuing negotiations will establish reasonable quantitative parameters that reflect the qualitative considerations we have outlined by taking full account of our vulnerabilities and other relevant economic and social factors.

In closing Mr. Chairman, we wish to assure you and other members of the Committee that CARICOM will approach the negotiations on this and all other agenda items in a spirit of openness and constructive engagement. In the same vein, we look forward to adopting a methodology that is tenable, fair, proportional to our circumstances, fundamentally coherent and represents the highest standards of transparency.

I thank you Mr. Chairman