



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Statement by Mr. KO Jaesin

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Fifth Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly

Item 138: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the UN

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Bernardo Greiver, the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for his informative introduction of the Committee on Contributions report. The report thoroughly shows that the current methodology for the scale of assessments brings about many changes in the scale of Member States, reflecting the dynamic reality of the economic landscapes around the globe. My thanks also go to Mr. Leonelito Berridge, the Secretary of the Committee on Contributions, for presenting the Secretary-General's report on the multi-year payment plans.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As many Member States are strengthening their fiscal discipline to overcome the ongoing economic challenges, it is critical to find a fairer and more sustainable burden-sharing mechanism for the United Nations' activities and

operations. In this regard, we need to focus on whether our agreed methodology can result in more equitable and sustainable scales.

3. Without a doubt, my delegation thinks there is still room for further improvement to the current methodology in terms of equitability, sustainability, simplicity, and the principle of capacity to pay. In this regard, we believe that the deviation between the scales and the GNI shares after applying various adjustment factors, such as the debt burden adjustment (DBA), the low per capita income adjustment (LPCIA), and ceilings, should be within a reasonable range. While the deviation coming from any of these factors in the methodology is intended to reflect the economic situation of the Member States, it could worsen the distortion between the scale and the actual capacity to pay if the deviations continue to grow.

4. The Committee on Contributions also suggested using the actual data to improve the application of the debt burden adjustment. Instead of using theoretical or hypothetical assumptions, the actual data, which can be collected through debt flow and public debt, could improve the accuracy of the adjustment rates. My delegation believes this could enable us to reflect the capacity to pay in a more accurate and equitable manner.

5. The Committee on Contributions also pointed out that the redistribution of points at the low per capita income adjustment stage has been increasing over time. In this context, the report discussed other options to revise the LPCIA by using the world average per capita debt-adjusted GNI or an inflation-adjusted threshold. My delegation will believe that a fair shared attention should be given to this issue in related discussions.

6. As for the application of Article 19 of the Charter, my delegation endorses the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions on the exemption of its application. We encourage those Member States to do their best to reduce unpaid assessed contributions.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. /End/