



PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



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

**FIFTH COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

Organizational Session

70th Session of the General Assembly

“Programme of Work”

New York, 8 October, 2015



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Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, at this first formal meeting of the Fifth Committee during the seventieth period of sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. First and foremost, we wish to seize this occasion to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Fifth Committee during the 70th Period of Session of the General Assembly. Our Community wishes you and the other Members of the Bureau, success in conducting the work of the Committee during this session.
3. We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the work programme and its efforts concerning the general organizational issues.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The programme of work introduced today includes topics of great importance to the Community, such as, the Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, Scale of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization, the Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and particularly some issues connected with the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2018 such as the Strategic Heritage Plan, UNOG, the United Nations common system and financing and **backstopping** support for the Special Political Missions.
5. During this session, the Community will carefully analyze the reports of the Secretary General, of the Board of Auditors, of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which have been submitted or are in the process of formulation.
6. With regard to the consideration of the scales of assessments for the regular and peacekeeping budgets, CELAC reaffirms the importance of the principle of "capacity to pay" as the main guide for our deliberations, seeing as it positively takes into account the development challenges faced by developing countries, both in our region and around the world. CELAC members believe that, with the exception of the ceiling, the current methodology used for the preparation of the scales adequately reflects



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fluctuations in the relative economic situation of Member States and, over time, constitutes a sound formula for apportioning the expenses of the United Nations. In this context, CELAC members will be actively engaged in consultations on these agenda items while rejecting, from the outset, any changes to the methodology, which has continued to work well since its inception.

7. The Committee will consider newly the review of the funding and backstopping arrangements from the headquarters of SPM's, issue that has been deferred on several occasions. CELAC reiterates its concern for distortion caused by the financing of these Missions through the regular budget that also places great pressure on the resources that should be allocated to areas such as the financing of the development. The Community will give close follow-up to this important topic, which we believe must be addressed urgently to reach a final settlement that gives certainty to Special Political Missions and let them work more effectively and efficiently.
8. On this issue, we would like to recall that the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended measures to improve SPMs funding and backstopping arrangements from the headquarters in 2011, including the establishment of a special and separate account for SPMs. In order to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the Organization's budgetary process, we strongly support the establishment of a separate account that would be budgeted, funded and reported upon on an annual basis with a financial period of 1 July to 30 June.
9. We stress our concern for distortion caused by the financing of these missions to the regular budget arrangements and underline that the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security must be borne in mind in connection with their contributions to the financing of all peace and security operations, including special political missions.
10. CELAC is fully committed to a holistic reform of SPMs based on the recommendations of the Secretariat and the ACABQ. These recommendations are in the interests of the Organization and the Member States which are served by SPMs. Like in previous sessions, we state our willingness to engage in the consideration of these items with other regional groups or group of States in order to reach a satisfactory conclusion. . The



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need for a holistic reform, including the establishment of a separate account becomes more urgent with each year that the Committee fails to act.

11. Furthermore, three new documents of great importance were published in recent months, which highlight the urgency to move forward in the reform of the financing and backstopping arrangements of Special Political Missions: The Peace building Architecture Review, whose work was chaired by prominent Guatemalan Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, urged Member States to urgently consider the recommendations of the Secretary General. For its part, the High-Level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, chaired by former President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Prize Peace Recipient, José Ramos-Horta, recommended the immediate adoption of the recommendation. The Secretary-General's reaction to this report was clear and forceful: He supports the call of the Panel for Member States to take immediate action on this critical issue.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Like in previous Sessions, we state our willingness to engage in the consideration of these items with other regional groups or group of States in order to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

13. CELAC reiterates the crucial importance of having the complete official documentation required to ensure the efficiency of the work of the Committees, the quality of the debates and the negotiating processes. In the context of a Session like this one, with so many challenges ahead, it is imperative that the Secretariat adopt the necessary measures to respond to the continuous demands made by Member States as reflected in various resolutions of the General Assembly.
14. Often, delegates have to work under time pressure having to push the programme of work constantly beyond the deadline established for the Fifth Committee session.
15. Our Community reiterates the call for the strict respect to the principle of timely distribution of the documents in all working languages, as it is contained in successive resolutions of the General Assembly on the



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schedule of conferences, as well as in the Regulations of the Assembly itself.

Mr. Chairman,

16. CELAC Group stands ready to collaborate on all the items with the goal of advancing the negotiations and reaching agreements satisfactory to all. For this purpose we shall participate in the informal consultations in a constructive manner in order to ensure that the areas entrusted with performing the development mandates approved by the General Assembly have adequate resources for their full implementation.
17. The Organization requires the complete and timely payment of contributions by its members in order to ensure its proper functioning. The Community thus calls all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time in order to improve its financial situation, and in this sense, condemns any unilateral act or measure against any Member State of the Organization aimed to complicate or impede payment of its assessed contributions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.