



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

**Mr. Jan De Preter**

**Delegation of the European Union  
to the United Nations**

**72nd Session of the General Assembly  
Fifth Committee**

**Scale of Assessments  
Main Session**

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

First, let me thank Ambassador Bernardo Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for presenting the Committee's report of its 77th session, as well as Mr. Lionel Berridge, Chief of the Contributions and Policy Coordination Service, for the presentation of the Secretary-General's report on multi-year payment plans.

Mr. Chair,

While our Committee is not tasked to prepare a decision on the methodology for the scale of assessments at this session, we are pleased to note that the review of the elements of the methodology presented by the Committee on Contributions provides valuable recommendations that merit our fullest attention in our efforts to find ways to enhance the methodology.

This year's review by the Committee on Contribution is thorough and comprehensive. We wish to stress once again that funding the Organisation is the joint responsibility of the whole membership and is essential to its sustainability and effective functioning. There is still room to improve the methodology if it is to reflect a more equitable and balanced distribution of the financial responsibilities among Member States according to their capacity to pay.

Mr. Chair,

Let me continue by addressing the issue of the requests for exemption under Article 19. The EU Member States have constantly stressed that the payment of assessed contributions in full, on time and without condition is a fundamental duty of all member states. Our position has not changed. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that, for reasons beyond their control, some member states may, at times, face genuine, temporary difficulties in fulfilling their annual financial obligations to the United Nations.

Once arrears have accumulated, multi-year payment plans seem to be an effective tool to help member states to reduce their unpaid assessed contributions.

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We are content to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions permitting the countries that requested exemption under Article 19 to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its 72nd session.

Given the heavy agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee during the main session of the 72nd General Assembly and our previous calls to enhance working methods and speed up the procedures of the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee, we call upon all partners to close the scale of assessments item as quickly as possible after a short round of informal consultations. In that regard it is not a good use of the Committee's time to discuss proposals that would deviate from Article 17 of the Charter and the capacity to pay principle.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.