

**Statement by Mr. Haseeb Gohar, Second Secretary, Pakistan Mission to the United Nations on agenda item 138: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations, at the main part of the 73rd Session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly**

**(New York, 23 October 2018)**

**Madam Chair,**

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of G-77 and China and wishes to make few additional points.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General Jan Beagle for her presentation on the financial situation of the Organization.

**Madam Chair,**

With rising tide of populism, nationalism and unilateralism, the relevance of the United Nations becomes even more critical today to deliver on its Charter.

The UN remains an indispensable tool to address the most daunting challenges of its times from development to International peace and security to human rights and to the humanitarian crisis.

**Madam Chair,**

Depleting resources, ever-growing outstanding amounts, arbitrary cuts into the budget and precarious cash reserves offer a bleak picture of the financial situation of the Organization.

A significant amount of assessment still remains unpaid, giving rise to a shortfall of \$365 million for the regular budget this year. An amount of \$3.6 billion remains outstanding for the Peacekeeping and Regular budget. This shortfall was covered through borrowing from the closed Peacekeeping Missions.

**Madam Chair,**

Pakistan has always promoted the ideals of multilateralism.

Since 1960, Pakistan effectively contributed to the UN Peacekeeping with over 200,000 troops to 46 missions, in 28 countries.

Our 156 Peacekeepers also made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for the maintenance of International Peace and Security.

Pakistan also fulfilled our International obligation while paying our assessed contribution to the UN Regular and International Tribunal budgets.

However, we are remain concerned over the level of debt owed to Member States contributing troops, police and equipment. The debt owed to such countries is \$221 million as of 30 September 2018, which includes \$86 million for the closed peacekeeping missions, \$92 million for troops and formed Units and \$43 million for Contingent Owned Equipment.

**Madam Chair,**

The precarious financial situation not only impacts liquidity and overall financial health of the Organization but it also exacerbates the operational challenges for effective mandate delivery on ground.

We reiterate that the Member States should pay their assessed contributions, in accordance with the UN Charter.

Pakistan sincerely hopes that the negative implications of the persistent non-payment of assessments would be taken seriously. We trust that the debt owed to the Troop Contributing Countries would be reimbursed in full and on time, especially on account of closed Peacekeeping Missions.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, Pakistan reassures you of our constructive engagement to improve the financial situation of the UN.

**I thank you.**