

**73rd UN General Assembly
Fifth Committee
The Second Resumed Session**

**India Statement
Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations
16 May 2019**

**Mr. Mahesh Kumar
First Secretary**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

2. We align with the G77 statement delivered by the State of Palestine.
3. We thank Under Secretary General Ms. Jan Beagle for briefing us on the UN's financial situation.
4. Although India's share of the UN's budget has been increasing in recent years, including a 13% increase from this year; India has been paying its share on time. This year also India has paid all assessments in full and on time.
5. We commend other Member States that have fully paid all of their assessments and would like to request Member States in arrears to honor their UN Charter Obligations at the earliest.
6. The arrears stand at a whopping sum of \$3.6 billion. This is roughly one third of the annual assessment of the Organization. The arrears puts those member states that would have benefitted from the efficient implementation of mandates to a serious disadvantage.
7. The UN peacekeeping also suffers from the arrears. We note that apart from the \$1 billion worth of unsettled reimbursements to TCCs, large reimbursements related to Letters of Assist (\$178 million) and death and disability claims (\$8 million) were also outstanding. These data do not include the long unsettled COE reimbursements of many TCCs, including India, from the closed peacekeeping missions.
8. India is also among those member states who continue to be owed significant sums towards troop and COE reimbursements from the active peacekeeping missions. Nevertheless, we have continued to support the UN peacekeeping, and are cumulatively the largest troop contributor.

9. Reimbursement on time for peacekeeping is a genuine expectation. While there has not been any real growth in the reimbursement rates, the TCCs have been asked to bring in more capacities and more equipment to achieve ambitious mandates. These arrears and recurrent delay in reimbursement have turned the TCCs as de facto financiers of UN peacekeeping. This is involuntary and beyond many TCCs' capacity to pay; in fact it eats up their already limited capacity to contribute.

10. Unjustifiable and inexplicable delays in reimbursement have also negatively impacted on UN's ability to maintain honest agreements with TCCs on other aspects of the peacekeeping. This situation calls for a serious introspection.

11. The current reimbursement framework and related practices of the Secretariat also compound the problem. The practice of delaying payments to TCCs, even as similar contractual obligations to others are met, cannot continue unaddressed.

12. We note that the Secretary-General has put forth several proposals to improve the financial situation of the UN. Some of the proposals supposedly aim to improve UN's reimbursement relationship with the TCCs. We will study these proposals carefully and look forward to a constructive discussion.

I thank you, Madam Chair.