



PHILIPPINES

H.E. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations

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Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, 10 October 2018

Item 140. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of the UN
Item 149. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of UN PKOs

Madam Chair,

As we've had occasion to say of the recent election of some of our distinguished colleagues, your election raises the highest expectations of the 5th Committee. Allow us to congratulate the other new members of the Bureau.

The Philippines aligns itself with the Statement of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and with the Statement of Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN.

Madam Chair, I have the honor to speak on agenda item 140 on the Scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of the UN and

agenda item 149 on the Scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of UN Peacekeeping Operations.

The Philippines thanks Ambassador Bernardo Griever, Chair of the Committee on Contributions (COC), and his team for introducing the report of the Committee's seventy-eight session. We also thank the Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts Mr. Chandru Ramanathan for introducing the report of the Secretary General on Multi-year payment plans.

The Philippine delegation underscores that the current methodology for the preparation of the scales of assessments has specific criteria in place and fairly reflects changes in the relative economic situations of the Member States. We reaffirm the principle of "capacity to pay" as fundamental in the apportionment of UN expenses, and we reject any change with a view to increasing developing countries' contributions. Its core elements, such as Gross National Income, conversion rates, low per capita income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for Least Developed Countries and debt stock adjustment must be retained.

Based on UN COC reports, we note that the scales of assessment for some developing countries increased significantly, while the scales for some developed countries decreased. We look forward eagerly to the briefing by the Secretariat to understand more about the steps in the methodology and their impact on the proposed changes in the scales of assessment.

The Philippines acknowledges the view that the Multi-year payment plans could be helpful in allowing Member States to demonstrate their commitment under Article 19 of the UN Charter to be able to pay their arrears. The Philippines appreciates the efforts of Member States, which have submitted their respective plans. However, the submission of these plans should remain voluntary and not exert pressure on Member States that are already in difficult circumstances.

Madam Chair, let me end by saying that, despite the considerable amount and complexity of the work of the 5th Committee, we look confidently to constructive discussions and engagement on these agenda items.

Thank you.