



**REMARKS BY H.E. TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE  
PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTH FORMAL MEETING OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE)**

**Organiser:** Fifth Committee  
**Date & Time:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 10:00  
**Location:** Conference Room 3

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to address the Fifth Committee. I congratulate the Chair, Ambassador Andreas Mvroyiannis, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, and the other Members of the Bureau on their election.

I have great confidence in you, the Bureau, and the Secretariat ably led by Mr. Lionel Berridge, to advance the Committee's work during the Seventy-Fourth Session.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The impact of the work of this Committee cannot be overestimated. Decisions taken in this Committee affect the capacity of the United Nations to implement mandates provided by Member States and shape the work under each of the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security; development; and human rights.

I trust you are aware of your responsibilities as representatives of the Fifth Committee. I trust you to conduct amicable negotiations in good faith and foster consensus. Fifth Committee decisions reflect the collective commitment of Member States to share the financial burden and to fund the mandated activities of the United Nations. I am confident that consensus will continue to be the decision-making practice in the Fifth Committee.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

We are at a juncture as we move from a biennial budget to an annual budget.

I trust that you will act constructively throughout the Session as you address key items on the agenda including the Programme Budget and the Programme Plan for 2020.

I urge you to complete your work in a timely and successful manner, and to finalise the ~~first~~ annual budget of the United Nations.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

You are renowned for your endurance. However, there is no reason to spend more time than necessary here in the basement of the United Nations. I hope that you will endeavour to observe working hours, and to make time for rest over the

upcoming holidays.

My team and I will follow your deliberations and stand ready to support you to advance the work of this important Committee.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The UN is facing a liquidity crisis. I call on all Member States to support the United Nations by fulfilling their commitments and obligations in accordance with the budget and the scale of assessment.

I am confident that by striving together we will succeed in delivering for all.

I thank you.

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