

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and my country Canada.

I would like to thank Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, as well as the Controller, Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, for their comprehensive presentations to the Committee last week and for guiding the organization through this difficult and sustained liquidity crisis.

Alors que le monde continue de lutter contre la pandémie de COVID-19, l'ONU reste la seule organisation internationale véritablement universelle qui peut aborder les défis qui transcendent nos frontières nationales.

[As the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations remains the only truly universal global organization that can address challenges that transcend our national borders]

Au cours de la présente session, la Cinquième Commission examine les demandes budgétaires du Secrétaire général pour les opérations de maintien de la paix, le volet le plus visible de la présence mondiale de l'ONU.

[This session, the Fifth Committee is considering the budget requests of the Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations, the most visible aspect of the UN's global footprint]

Mais pour que les opérations de maintien de la paix de l'ONU puissent remplir leur mandat – pour que l'ONU puisse remplir son mandat – tous les États membres doivent verser les contributions financières qui découlent des décisions que nous prenons collectivement.

[But for UN peacekeeping operations to deliver on their mandates - for the United Nations to deliver on its mandates - all Member States must pay the financial contributions that flow from the decisions we take collectively.]

In 2020, the UN ended the year with the highest level of arrears for its regular budget in more than a decade.

While we welcome the modest improvement in the collection of assessed contributions in recent months ...

.. we remain concerned with the overall financial situation of the Organization.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance for the United Nations to have the appropriate resources to deliver on its mandates.

To this day, the organization is forced to operate not solely on the basis of strategic direction, but rather on the availability of cash – both for its regular and peacekeeping budgets.

In other words, the operations of the United Nations are not driven by organizational priorities, but by the dictates of liquidity.

This is not sustainable, and it must change.

Assessed contributions are not voluntary contributions – they are legal obligations each of us have as Member States of the United Nations.

We also have a moral responsibility to ensure that the organization has adequate resources to implement its mandates, especially during these challenging times.

Mr. Chair,

While the situation here in New York is improving, we cannot forget that many parts of the world continue to grapple with the worst effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And as we begin to shift from vaccine preparedness to vaccine distribution and administration, we are entering a new phase of the pandemic where solidarity is needed like never before.

The long-standing record of Australia, New Zealand and Canada of paying our assessments in full, on time and without conditions is an indication of our commitment to the United Nations.

We want the United Nations to implement the budgets we approve instead of being guided by the cash at hand.

And today, we continue to encourage all Member States to pay their dues

on time ...

in full ...

... and without conditions.

We particularly urge Member States with pending assessments and arrears to pay their past dues as a matter of priority.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, let me reiterate the commitment of Australia, New Zealand and Canada to the financial sustainability of the United Nations and our willingness to engage constructively in all deliberations aimed at improving the financial situation of the organization.

Je vous remercie.

[Thank you]