



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

Statement by Richard Croker, Minister-Counsellor and Ambassador to the Fifth Committee of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mission to the United Nations on the financial situation of the United Nations

14 May 2021

Mr Chair,

I would like to thank Under Secretary-General, Catherine Pollard, for her presentation last week on the current financial situation of the United Nations, and to the UN Controller for his subsequent briefing.

The United Kingdom remains concerned at the ongoing liquidity problems faced by the United Nations.

Member states expect the United Nations to implement fully the many mandates we have given it and deliver high quality results. We cannot expect it to do that – especially not at a time when it is dealing with the impact of the COVID19 pandemic - without the right resources and tools to operate effectively. Time and resource spent managing and mitigating the impact of liquidity shortages is time and resource that could be better spent enhancing delivery on the ground. It is essential therefore that all member states pay their assessed contributions in full and in good time.

We were pleased to hear that in April there was a healthy \$1 billion cash injection to the regular budget, taking collections for 2021 up to 76%. It is reassuring to hear that hiring restrictions have been relaxed partially and much needed staff are starting to be onboarded. We regret that we have not seen the same uptick in contributions for peacekeeping budgets. We hope that member states will make all their outstanding contributions to both the regular and peacekeeping budgets expeditiously.

We are pleased to hear also that as a result of the reforms we agreed two years ago, which allow member states to pay voluntarily their contributions ahead of peacekeeping mandate renewals and cash pooling between active peacekeeping

missions, the overall liquidity of active peacekeeping operations continues to improve. Seeing the benefits of these measures, we encourage the Secretary-General once again to identify and implement new and innovative ways to help alleviate the liquidity challenges for the regular budget, and to bring them to this Committee where necessary, at the earliest opportunity.

The United Kingdom commends the UN Controller and the rest of the Organisation for their ongoing efforts to prioritise how the United Nations uses its available resources to maintain mandate delivery and ensure a clear focus on delivering results. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to prioritise and use its resources effectively, and where necessary agilely, including in response to new mandates, and emerging priorities and challenges, in support of delivery.

Finally Mr Chair, I wish to reassure you that the United Kingdom remains firmly committed to seeing the United Nations on a more stable financial footing.