



MÉXICO

STATEMENT BY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MAIN SESSION

FIFTH COMMITTEE

ITEM 138:

“SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE
EXPENSES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS”

New York, October 4th 2011

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, being the first time my delegation is formally addressing this Committee, allow me to congratulate you on your election, and to extend our recognition to the Vicechairs of the Committee. I am certain that under your leadership we will complete our work successfully and in a timely manner.

I also wish to thank Mr. Bernardo Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions for the presentation of its report, and to recognize his leadership of it.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the relevant General Assembly decisions, the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned among Member States according to our capacity to pay. Unfortunately, my country believes that the current methodology still does not adequately reflect this capacity to pay.

Thus, even if in the most recent occasions that this issue has been under consideration of the membership, Mexico has decided to join the consensus, we believe that the necessary in-depth review of the methodology for determining the scale of assessment is still pending.

Mexico is a country committed to the Organization, and we will never question our obligation to contribute financially to the good performance of its duties. However, we express our disappointment because we perceive a great reluctance to recognize important changes in international economic realities.

Our intention is not to "penalize economic success" of any Member State, or ask anyone to make an effort disproportionate to their particular financial situation. However the commitment to the United Nations Organization, the international organization par excellence, should be reflected in accepting to make the efforts that correspond to every and each one of us, indeed, according to our abilities.

The report presented for our consideration requires that this Assembly gives indications to the Committee on Contributions on the way to go about certain issues. Beyond the technical details, which my delegation will address during the upcoming discussions on the matter that lie ahead, the main message I wish to convey to our partners and friends at this time is political: the Committee must provide us with the elements to work on a renewed scale, that recognizes adequately the capacity to pay of each and every one of us.

Mr. President,

As recognized by this august Assembly, the current methodology can be enhanced bearing in mind the principle of capacity to pay. Therefore, as on previous occasions, my delegation reiterates that all those elements that adjust the scale, and can generate a distortion in the calculation of the capacity to pay, should be subject to review and scrutiny.

We do not put into question per se, the elements that have been integrated to the methodology through time, aiming at inserting a sense of justice, or else, to simply reflect what some countries consider as the maximum amount with which they can contribute to the Organization. However, as middle-income country, Mexico is well aware that averages often hide the reality. Therefore, the application of these principles should not translate into a too onerous a burden

for countries that, while being above the world averages, still face major challenges in development and poverty reduction.

On the other hand, we consider that the methodology should reflect the evolution of the situation and each country's capacities in the most dynamic and as attached to current realities as possible. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Contributions to consider proposals that include the most to-date, comprehensive and comparable information available. My delegation wishes to reiterate that, as we pointed out in previous occasions, all the elements of the methodology should be subject to review, without pre-fixed ideas.

Mr. President,

My delegation is aware that financial pressures resulting from the current international economic situation affects us all. All alike, we hope that our contribution to the Organization is "fair." To this end, we have agreed to the concept of "capacity to pay."

However, Mexico believes that we need to carefully study the concept. How to ensure that the scale is fair, reflecting our "capacity to pay" in the most appropriate manner?

Additionally, I wish to recall that in resolution 64/248 we decided "to review, at –the- earliest opportunity, all elements of the methodology of the scale of assessments with a view to a decision before the end of its sixty-sixth session to take effect, if agreed, for the 2013–2015 scale period".

Mr. Chairman,

With this in mind, my delegation considers that it is necessary to undertake an open and frank process of dialogue.

We know how complicate it is to address some of the elements that need to be reviewed. We also know that in such a complicated situation, some would prefer the *status quo*. However, my delegation is willing to give the collective wisdom a chance, and to try to undertake a serene although serious discussion.

The authority of the 5th Committee on this topic is unquestionable. However, during the current session we already have some very important challenges, which require of all our attention.

In that sense, the most appropriate way forward might be to elaborate a proposal for the consideration of the Membership on the format and the schedule, beginning in January 2012, with a view to, under your leadership, fulfill the mandate that we gave ourselves in Paragraph 9 of resolution 64/248.

We are convinced that this Committee has the sufficient technical capacity and sense of responsibility so as to advance in the establishment of a methodology which is technically sound, politically acceptable and financially viable. We make a call to all to find the political will necessary to reach this goal.

Thank you.