

Statement by First Secretary, Mr. Jaesin KO

Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

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Item 147: Administrative and budgetary aspects of financing UNPKOs: TCC  
Rates of reimbursement

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. I would first like to thank Mr. Herve Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Ameerah Haq, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the ACABQ, for their comprehensive reports and relevant briefings. I also express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for completing the survey of Troup Rates of Reimbursement (TRR), which has been long overdue.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation believes that the results of the survey presented today represent a meaningful step forward. This is actually the first survey on TCC reimbursement since 1996, and it contains invaluable measures to improve the current methodology.

3. As we are well aware, TRR has not increased for the last 20 years, except for the two instances of small increase. In view of inflation and the growing complexity and dangers surrounding peacekeeping operations, the decision to establish new standards of TRR seems to be both timely and necessary.
4. At the same time, we must also give serious consideration to the financial pressure coming from PKO budgets. The proposed PKO budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 will probably amount to more than 8 billion dollars. This is due to the expected additional expenditures; including the establishment of new missions such as MINUSCA, and the strengthening of existing missions such as UNMISS. However, while the budget requirement continues to grow, many countries are still in the process of economic recovery. Under these circumstances, we should seek a reasonable outcome that reflects these two equally important factors. My delegation shares the concerns that the new TRR standards will cause continuous additional budget expenditures.

Mr. Chairman,

5. My delegation will prudently review the newly proposed TRR structure in order to accommodate both concerns. In this regard, we would like to make three points. First, regarding the actual cost paid by TCCs, we have concerns on the relevant levels of payment used to calculate the standard structure, as the variance of the actual costs of sample countries, along with their income levels, highly differ. Second, we should explore ways in which to share the financing of the new additional allowances with TCCs, especially given the allowances' natures and benefits to TCC's military capabilities. Third, we believe that the implementation should be gradual, with a view towards avoiding sudden financial upsurge.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

6. My delegation would like to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively in the coming discussions to ensure a successful conclusion of this agenda item. Thank you.