



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

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**69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Fifth Committee**

**Scale of assessments**

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**- AS DELIVERED -**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Iceland<sup>+</sup> and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, I wish to thank Mr. Bernardo Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for presenting the Committee's report of its 74th session, as well as Mr. Lionel Berridge, Chief of the Contributions and Policy Coordination Service, for the presentation of the Secretary-General's report on multi-year payment plans.

Mr. Chairman,

While our Committee is not tasked to prepare a decision on the methodology for the scale of assessments at this session, we are pleased to note that the review of the elements of the methodology presented by the Committee on Contributions provides valuable elements that merit our fullest attention in our efforts to find ways to enhance the methodology.

As we have repeated time and again, the current methodology results in a scale that no longer accurately reflects the capacity to pay principle, and this has been expressly recognised by the GA in resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012. The Low Per Capita Income Adjustment has become over the years the largest element of redistribution, and benefits only to a limited extent the poorer members that are in real need of the adjustment.

This year's review by the Committee on Contribution is thorough and comprehensive, and helpfully highlights some of the issues that are at the root of this situation. We welcome this review, which the Committee has conducted in the spirit of resolution 67/238, and of the call it makes to study the methodology in depth and make recommendations on the elements of the methodology of the scale of assessments in order to reflect the capacity of Member States to pay.

For our part, we wish to stress once again that funding the Organisation is the joint responsibility of the whole membership and is essential to its sustainability and effective functioning. There is still room to improve the methodology if it is to reflect a more equitable and balanced distribution of the financial responsibilities among Member States according to their capacity to pay. We look forward to further discussing ways to achieve this goal, in the common interest of the Organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me continue by addressing the issue of the requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter. The EU Member States have constantly stressed that the payment of assessed

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<sup>+</sup> *Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.*

<sup>\*</sup> *Albania continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

contributions in full, on time and without condition is a fundamental duty of all member states. This position has not changed. Nevertheless, it has to be acknowledged that, for reasons beyond their control, some member states may, at times, face genuine, temporary difficulties in fulfilling their annual financial obligations to the United Nations.

Once arrears have accumulated, multi-year payment plans seem to be an effective tool to help member states to reduce their unpaid assessed contributions.

We are content to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions permitting the countries that requested exemption under Article 19 to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its 69th session.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.