



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Counselor Fu Daopeng of the Chinese Delegation at the Main
Session of the Fifth Committee of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly on
Agenda Item 138: Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations**

October 13, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank USG Jan Beagle for presenting the financial situation of the United Nations. We associate ourselves with the statement by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I wish to make the following additional comments and suggestions on the financial situation of the United Nations.

First, we are pleased to note that, according to the Secretariat, as of 30 September, compared with the same period last year, there is an increase in the number of member states that have paid in full their regular budget, peacekeeping and tribunals assessments, together with a decrease in the proportion of unpaid assessments of regular budget and tribunals. It is concerning, however, that the total unpaid assessments under the regular budget and peacekeeping still amount to a staggering 1.095 and 2.514 billion US dollars respectively. In particular, the cash shortfall of the regular budget remains acute, which, if not addressed promptly, will further aggravate the shortage of funds towards the end of the year. We hope that this problem would be properly dealt with.

Second, China has always been a staunch supporter of the cause of the United Nations and multilateralism. Despite the enormous pressure emanating from efforts back at home for economic transformation and upgrading, poverty alleviation and improving the livelihoods of the people, the Chinese government still pulled out all the stops to raise funds and managed to pay

up in time all its assessed contributions, thus contributing to improving the financial situation of the United Nations. At the same time, in fulfilling its commitments, the Chinese government actively provides extra assistance to the UN system, including setting up the United Nations Peace and Development Fund, lending strong support to the cause championed by the United Nations.

Third, financial resources are the foundation and an important anchor for the governance of the United Nations. A sound financial situation is both the foundation for the UN to fulfill its responsibilities and play its role and the material guarantee for the reform of UN. We call upon countries in a position to do so, not least countries with sizable arrears, to promptly and unconditionally pay up their assessments, so as to support with actual deeds the cause and reform of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

There is an ancient Chinese saying which goes, “one should base spending on income”, meaning living within one’s means. Compared to demand for expenditure, income is always limited, hence the importance of strengthening budgetary management and improving the efficiency in fund utilization. In our view, any reform or change relating to budget management must be in the interest of improving the efficiency of utilization of financial resources, strengthening accountability, upholding budgetary discipline and in the final analysis, managing and utilizing well every penny from the tax payers of the member states.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.