

73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Agenda Item 134: Financial Reports & Reports of the Board of Auditors

22 October 2018

India Statement

Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

2. My delegation aligns with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the G-77.
3. The Board of Auditors constitutes the core of the oversight mechanism of the United Nations. Their observations and recommendations play a vital role in the financial, administrative and performance management of the entire UN system.
4. I thank the Chairman and the Members of the Board of Auditors for their quality reports reflecting key trends in financial management across different UN entities. We commend the Board for their insightful recommendations, including their commentary on various cross entity issues.

Madam Chair,

5. We welcome the fact that, for the financial period ended on 31 December 2017, the Board has issued unqualified audit opinions for all audited entities.
6. We note that the overall financial position of the Organization as at 31 December 2017 remains sound and that the organization had sufficient funds for discharge of liabilities.
7. However, this does not focus on the very large sums of outstanding assessments. The leadership of the Organization through their regular briefings to the Committee, and through communications to the member states, twice in 2018, has highlighted this issue.
8. As at 30 September 2017, since Audit period under discussion is up to 30 December 2017, outstanding assessments were \$3.65 billion. This year also the situation has not improved and is a cause of concern.

9. Sound financial management necessitates adequate cash reserves so that the United Nations can meet its financial obligations in a timely fashion. Healthy cash reserve in the context of UN is a direct function of the assessments paid on time by member states. We hope that this aspect would also be examined and commented upon by the Audit in its next reports on the subject.

Madam Chair,

10. Managing the workforce or the Human Resources Management is an area of interest to my delegation. Secretary General's report on new global human resources strategy for the organization includes some earlier unattained goals.

11. Now, the Board has also commented upon the current practice of temporary assignments at the Secretariat which is not fully in sync with the Staff Regulations and Rules.

12. The Board also comments against the practice of repeated short listing of unavailable or unsuitable candidates in the selection of consultants, thereby restricting competition and hindering fair selection. We hope that these concerns would be immediately addressed.

13. I conclude by assuring you of my delegation's constructive participation in the deliberations of the Committee on this important agenda item.

I thank you Madam Chair.
