

India Statement

The Organization of Work of the Fifth Committee for the Main Part of the Seventy-Fourth Session

7 October 2019

**Mahesh Kumar
First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

2. We would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee.
3. We align ourselves with the statement made by Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77. In addition, I would like to make following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

4. During the last few sessions the Committee had deliberated and approved major reforms proposed by the Secretary General. Some of the reform proposals, important and necessary ones, are already implemented. Annual budget for the Organization, perhaps the most important and complex element of the reforms has also been approved on trial basis. While discussing the budget figures for 2020, we should also seek its alignment with established budgetary procedures and practices.
5. Our ask has been that the reforms, while rationalizing processes and structures, should also strengthen the intergovernmental nature of the UN. Preserving the prerogatives of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee is intrinsic to this ask.
6. We also hope that the efficiencies generated from the reforms would be utilized for developmental work of the organization. The proposed budget while speaks of some productivity gains, also proposes cut in the budget of bodies like UNCTAD, ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, and ESCWA. This is a cause of concern.

Mr. Chair,

7. Later this morning, we will discuss agenda item 139 on the scale of assessments, under which the request from Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia of exemption under Article 19 will also be considered.

8. We believe that these member states would have ordinarily fulfilled their financial obligations to the UN but for the genuine economic difficulties faced by them. We fully endorse the recommendation of Committee on Contributions that these member states be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its seventy-fourth session.

9. It is also important to emphasize that payment of assessed contribution in full, on time, and without preconditions is a legal obligation of the member states. We note with concern that while the current regular budget financial year ends in three months, around 1.3 billion dollars of assessments for this and past year are outstanding.

Mr. Chair,

10. We would like to assure you of our support towards timely conclusion of the Committee's work.

I thank you.