



Statement of the Delegation of Uruguay – Organization of work – Opening Meeting of the Second Resumed Session of the 74^o United Nations General Assembly.

New York, May 4th 2020

Thank you,

Being the first time that I take the floor, on behalf of Uruguay I would like to congratulate the Chair as well as the Bureau for their outstanding work in previous sessions. I'd like to also acknowledge their leadership in bringing us to a successful conclusion of the negotiations, during the current challenging conditions.

In addition, Uruguay also appreciates the various reports submitted by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

The world, including the United Nations System is going through a terrible health and financial crisis. We understand the challenges that we are all facing and, in this sense, we want to express our willingness to work constructively with all the Delegations and the whole commission.

The Peacekeeping missions play a fundamental role in the work of the Organization, particularly with regard to the protection of the most vulnerable. On previous occasions we have stressed that we are all part of this system, and we reiterate once again our support for the adequate financing of peacekeeping activities.

According to the Secretary General Report A/74/736, the resources foreseen for peacekeeping missions from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 are estimated at \$ 6.655,2 million, which means a reduction of \$ 118,9 million in relation to the resources approved for the 2019/2020 period. This budget was prepared prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, which will impose new pressures on the entire System. For this reason, we will follow closely any future and possible updates, conscious of the need of the resources to be considered.

Furthermore, we look forward on engaging on agenda items such as the support account, cross-cutting and the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Regarding the mandates of the Peace Keeping Operations, we want to emphasize the importance of the protection of civilians and the most vulnerable groups, in particular women and children, the defense of human rights, the clarity of mandates, the safety and security of uniformed and civilian personnel, the gender mainstreaming activities, and finally, the programmatic activities and quick impact projects, all aspects that in our opinion promote the ultimate objective of any peacekeeping mission, which is to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable peace.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report A/74/305 (Part II) points out multiple challenges in the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda in various Missions.

The effective application of gender policies constitutes a substantive contribution to achieving a lasting and just peace. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 25th anniversary of the Fourth UN Conference on Women, held in Beijing, making it an excellent opportunity to highlight support for this cause.

Moreover, although there is much to be done in terms of prevention and response to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, we recognize the progress of the Organization in the last three years. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to continue working to eliminate this scourge.

To conclude, faced with this fragile situation and growing challenges, the work of the peacekeeping missions and the UN will be more essential than ever.

Thank you.