



Introductory statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions on the report of the Committee on its eightieth session

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the Committee on Contributions, let me convey to you and to the Bureau our congratulations on your election. I should also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to your distinguished predecessor, His Excellency Mr Andreas Mavroyiannis, for his leadership of this Committee during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

2. Also, I would like to express solidarity with all those who have suffered and experienced fear and with all those who have lost loved ones as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and recognize all those on the front line fighting this pandemic, which possesses a global threat to all humanity.

3. It is my honour to introduce the report of the Committee on Contributions on its eightieth session, held online from 1 to 18 June 2020. This is before the Committee in document A/75/11.

Mr. Chairman,

4. At its eightieth session, the Committee on Contributions decided to postpone the review of the methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments until its eighty-first session owing to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and the inability to meet in person. With regards to the methodology for the scale of assessments, the Committee encourages Member States to make every effort possible to submit the required national accounts questionnaires on a timely basis as the most current, comprehensive and comparable data would be required to enable the Committee to update the scale of assessments at its next meeting in 2021.

Mr. Chairman,

5. In its resolution 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and as subsequently reaffirmed in other resolutions, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Contributions concerning multi-year payment plans. The results of the Committee's review of the latest report of the Secretary-General are contained in chapter IV of its report, which also contains updated information, as at 18 June 2020, on the status of implementation of the remaining payment plan. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly encourage all Member States in arrears under Article 19 of the

Charter to develop and submit practical multi-year payment plans in consultation with the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As indicated in chapter V of its report, five requests for exemption under Article 19 had been forwarded by the President of the General Assembly. The Committee encouraged the Member States concerned to address the growth in arrears by making annual payments exceeding current assessments in order to avoid further accumulation of debt. It also encouraged the Member States that had applied for exemption under Article 19 over many years, to submit a multi-year payment plan and to consult with the Secretariat, as required.

7. Following a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic, a payment was received from the Government of that country. The Committee noted that no further action was required, as the Central African Republic had made the minimum payment necessary to no longer fall under Article 19.

8. With regard to the three Member States – the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia – the Committee concluded that the failure to pay the full minimum amount to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond their control and the Committee recommended that they be permitted to vote until the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

9. Finally, the Committee concluded that it was unable to reach an agreement on the request for exemption under Article 19 of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Committee noted that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country could perhaps help to resolve the difficulties with the transfer of funds from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as it had done previously for other Member States in similar circumstances, and hoped that some practical means could be identified to enable the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to meet its obligations as soon as possible.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.