



Introductory statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions on the report of the Committee on its eighty-first 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. Carlos Amorín, for his leadership of this Committee during the seventy-fifth 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.
3. It is my honour to introduce the report of the Committee on Contributions on its eighty-first session, held here in New York from 7 June to 2 July 2021. This is before the Committee in document A/76/11 and A/76/11 Addendum 1.

Mr. Chairman,

4. While adopting the current scale of assessments in resolution 73/271, the General Assembly by the same resolution also requested the Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and make recommendations on the elements of the methodology of the scale of assessments in order to reflect the capacity of Member States to pay. The results of the Committee's review of the elements of the methodology pursuant to resolution 73/271, are detailed in chapter III, part A, of the report now before you in document A/76/11.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The income measure is a first approximation of capacity to pay. Based on its review of this element, the Committee recalled and reaffirmed its recommendation that the scale of assessments be based on the most current, comprehensive and comparable data available for gross national income (GNI). The Committee expressed support for the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Statistics Division to enable Member States to submit national accounts data on a timely basis with the required scope, detail and quality. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly encourage Member States to submit the required national accounts questionnaires under the 2008 System of National Accounts on a timely basis.

6. The GNI data received from Member States in their national currencies must be converted to a common monetary unit through the use of conversion rates. The Committee reaffirmed its recommendation that conversion rates based on market exchange rates should be used for the scale of assessments, except in cases where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in GNI of some Member States expressed in United States dollars. Based on its review, the Committee decided to use a modified conversion rate for the years 2014–2016 and the United Nations operational rate of exchange for the years 2017–2019 for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

7. Income data expressed in United States dollars must be averaged over a designated base period. Based on its review of this element, the Committee agreed that, once chosen, there were advantages in using the same base period for as long as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The debt-burden adjustment has been an element of the scale methodology since 1986. At this session, members of the Committee continued to have divergent views on the adjustment. However, the Committee noted that the unavailability of data was no longer a factor in determining whether to base the debt-burden adjustment on (a) total external debt or public external debt; and (b) the debt-stock approach or the debt-flow approach. Data is now available on public external debt and on the actual repayments. The Committee decided to further consider the question of the debt burden adjustment at future sessions in the light of guidance from the General Assembly.

9. The low per capita income adjustment has been part of the methodology since the preparation of the first scale of assessments. The adjustment continues to be an essential element in the scale methodology. The Committee considered options for revising the low per capita income adjustment, and members expressed different views on the merits of various alternatives.

10. The Committee agreed that an alternative approach for establishing the threshold could be the world average per capita debt-adjusted GNI (instead of the unadjusted per capita GNI used in the current methodology). The Committee also agreed that another alternative approach for establishing the threshold could be an inflation-adjusted threshold. The Committee decided to consider further the low per capita income adjustment in the light of guidance from the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

11. The current methodology includes a maximum assessment rate, or ceiling, of 22 per cent, a maximum rate for the least developed countries, or LDC ceiling, of 0.010 per cent, and a minimum assessment rate, or floor, of 0.001 per cent. The Committee decided to further consider these elements in the light of guidance from the General Assembly.

12. The Committee also considered other suggestions and other possible elements of the scale methodology. The Committee's review of large scale-to-scale changes in rates of assessment and discontinuity, annual recalculation and the inclusion of the indicators of 2020 and 2021 in the scale methodology is detailed in chapter III B. The Committee decided to further study these issues in the light of guidance from the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

13. In order to be able to identify the impact of new data on the scale of assessments for the period 2022-2024, including decisions on data and conversion rates but excluding proposals for changes to the scale methodology, the Committee decided to consider the application of the new data to the methodology used in preparing the current scale. The results are shown in chapter III, section D of the Committee's report for information.

14. The Committee on Contributions recalled its earlier recommendations regarding the assessment of non-member States. For the period 2022-2024, the Committee recommended that non-member States be called upon to contribute based on a flat annual fee fixed at 50 per cent, which would be applied to notional rates of assessment fixed at 0.001 per cent for the Holy See, and 0.011 per cent for the State of Palestine.

15. 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. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly encourage those Member States in arrears under Article 19 of the Charter to consider submitting multi-year payment plans.

Mr. Chairman,

16. As regards Article 19, four requests for exemption had been forwarded by the President of the General Assembly. As indicated in chapter V of its report, the Committee concluded that the failure of the four Member States –the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia - to pay the full minimum amount to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond their control and recommended that they be permitted to vote until the end of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly. Subsequently, the Central African Republic paid the minimum amount, and is no longer under the terms of Article 19.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.