



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

Statement by Richard Croker, Minister-Counsellor of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mission to the United Nations on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of the UN and the scale of assessments for the apportionment of UN Peacekeeping Operations

4 October 2021

Mr Chair,

Thank you Mr Chair. I would like to start by thanking Mr Griever, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, for presenting the Committee's report of its 75th session, and the Controller, Mr. Ramanathan for presenting the reports of the Secretary General.

Mr Chair, during its 73rd Session, the General Assembly concluded that the Regular Budget Scales of Assessment could be enhanced, and that the Peace Keeping budget scales needed reform. It is our job during this session to do that.

In regards to the Regular Budget scale, the technical work of the Committee on Contributions clearly sets out some of the issues that are preventing the current methodology from better reflecting the principle of capacity to pay. In some instances we not only have clear rationale and the data, but also guidance from the General Assembly to make adjustments. For example, the current Debt Burden Adjustment, where the availability of relevant data has improved substantially, and where we will not be heeding the General Assembly's guidance if we continue to persist with the technically flawed method here. There are also other examples, such as incorporating GNDI, which would be a more appropriate measure of capacity to pay.

I want to be clear that we continue to see relief measures as an important part of the methodology. However, relief could be – and should be - better targeted at those Member States that need it most. In this regard, it is highly questionable whether it is right for major creditor nations to benefit from DBA as they do now, as noted in the Committee's report.

In regards to the Peacekeeping scale, we continue to emphasise that the additional discounts currently applied do not, as a whole, truly reflect capacity to pay. In

particular, the discount afforded to Group C, and certain other Members, are not derived from justifiable, objective and comparable criteria. As such, we see no basis for this discount, and strongly encourage those Member States to relinquish it.

We welcome the commitments some Member States have made to forgoing discounted rates, including, but not limited to, where they have joined the Security Council. We would encourage all those who are able to amend their level of contribution, to better reflect their own capacity to pay and responsibilities. We believe that further exploration of ideas during this session in this regard may be helpful.

Mr Chair, we have heard arguments about the changing burdens among Member States. We must acknowledge that precisely because the Scales are intended to reflect capacity to pay, that this is both a logical, and fair, outcome if a Member State or group of Member States sees an increase in their contribution when there is economic growth relative to others.

Finally, Mr Chair, on Article 19, it is important there is a mechanism to assist Member States facing temporary and genuine difficulties. In that light, we welcome and endorse the CoC's recommendations this year. However, it is important that all Member States make every effort to pay in full and in a timely manner, and Article 19 is used on an exceptional basis as the Committee on Contributions notes.

We look forward to working with all member states to reach an appropriate and timely agreement on these items, better reflecting the principle of capacity to pay.

Thank you