



United States Mission to the United Nations

799 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

**Statement by Ambassador Patrick Kennedy
Senior Advisor for United Nations Management and Reform
Agenda Items 142/149. Scale of Assessments
Main Part of the 76th UN General Assembly
October 4, 2021**

[Check Against Delivery]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank Amb. Bernardo Greiver, Chair of the Committee on Contributions, and **Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Controller**, for introducing their respective reports.

The General Assembly's regular budget scales methodology is broadly based on the "capacity to pay". Reflecting this in the scale methodology, however, is not straightforward. As we consider the report of the Committee on Contributions, while we believe some improvements can be made to the regular budget scale, let me stress that the ceiling is a fundamental part of the scale methodology, and has been since 1946. No changes should be made to the ceiling.

On the peacekeeping scale, based on different principles, many Member States have historically volunteered to pay at a higher assessments rate than required.

For example, in the 2001 to 2003 scales period, 14 countries volunteered to pay at higher assessment rates than required – combined they paid an additional half percentage point. In the 2004 to 2006 period, 13 countries volunteered to pay at a higher rate, paying one full percentage point more on the peacekeeping scale. If such a practice were still in place, it would be worth \$65 million based on the current peacekeeping budget.

However, in 2021, only four countries volunteered to pay at a higher rate. Let me take a moment to thank Bulgaria, Estonia, Portugal, and Romania for continuing this voluntary spirit.

We are calling on countries to revive this voluntary spirit, starting with two groups of countries.

The C8 countries – eight countries that receive a 7.5% discount on the peacekeeping scale – are wealthy countries by any measure. They receive a discount only because they self-identify as members of the G-77. These countries have every right to identify with any group they please, but they should not be rewarded for this. We call on the C8 to voluntarily forgo their discount and pay the peacekeeping budget with no discount.

The E10, as members of the Security Council, have a special responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. This special responsibility should be reflected in the peacekeeping scale of assessments. During their term on the Council, the E10 should either relinquish their discount or, for those that do not receive a discount, pay a small premium. This is the responsible thing to do because E10 countries take part in Security Council decisions.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to working with other delegations to pass a consensus based scales resolution in a timely manner.

Thank you.