



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY AMBASSADOR MATHU JOYINI ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR THE MAIN PART OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 4 October 2021)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations on the Organization of Work of the Fifth Committee for the Main Part of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. Let me first start by congratulating HE Ambassador Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations for his appointment as Chair of this Committee and in the same vein congratulate to all the members of the Bureau upon their successful appointment.
3. Let me also take the opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to HE Ambassador Carlos Amarin, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations, and his Bureau for the excellent work well done during the 75th Session, despite the restrictions to our work brought about by COVID-19.
4. We also thank the Fifth Committee Secretariat under the capable leadership of Mr. Lionel Berridge and his team for their hard work and ever dependable support during our deliberations. The same goes to the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, and his team for their invaluable support and assistance to our work.
5. Allow me to also note that my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the African Group just delivered by the Chair of the Group and the remarks expressed by the distinguished representative of Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. With that I would like to make a few additional remarks.

Mr. Chair,

6. My delegation takes note of the necessity for adjustments that had to be put in place with regard to our methods of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This required that we embrace a hybrid working model, which took into account health and safety considerations. Though the Committee managed to conclude its previous Session in the adjusted working arrangements, it is our fervent wish that in-person meetings could be restored once the COVID-19 pandemic situation improves for the better.

7. It is imperative that all Member States participate in the deliberations on an equal footing in all meeting formats of the Session, this includes availing the interpretation services of the six (6) official languages of the UN to all delegations.

8. With regard to the work before us, we would like to reiterate our plea that all outstanding reports be issued as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Committee will once again decide on the Scales of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and of United Nations peacekeeping operations respectively. My delegation attaches significant importance to this agenda item and hope it will be finalized as soon as possible.

10. We wish to underscore that the existing methodology as a whole and all its elements for the preparation of the scale of assessments of the United Nations must be kept intact.

11. Other agenda items of interest to my delegation during the Main session include the Programme Plan and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2022; Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; Global Communications; the review of the implementation of the management paradigm; Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs; Economic and Social Development in Africa; Construction and Property Management; United Nations Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development; the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa; and Special Political Missions (SPM's), amongst others.

Mr. Chair,

12. My delegation hopes that the Committee will reach a swift decision on the Scale of Assessments that will grant the exemptions under Article 19 of the UN Charter to countries that have not been able to fulfil their financial obligations to the UN due to circumstances beyond their control.

13. To conclude Mr. Chairman, please be assured of my delegation's commitment to work constructively with all delegations towards the timely conclusion of all agenda items before the Committee, in a timely manner.

I thank you.