



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE NUR JAZLAN MOHAMED
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 110: IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL
SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE 59TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK**

ON

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2004

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Since this the first occasion that my delegation is addressing this Committee, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election. My delegation has full confidence that under your very able leadership, the work of the Committee will come to a successful conclusion in a timely and efficient manner. We also congratulate the members of the bureau.

2. My delegation joins others in thanking Ms Catherine Bertini, the Under-Secretary General for Management, for her very comprehensive briefing on the financial situation of the United Nations last Thursday.

3. My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the distinguished representative of Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We have heard from the Under-Secretary General for Management in her briefing to the Committee that serious problems still remain even though some progress have been made in the financial situation of the Organization. The total amount of unpaid assessment as at 15 October 2004 stood at \$3.345 billion as compared to last year's figure of \$1.596 billion. Malaysia hopes that the positive trend registered in the year 2003 for the regular budget will continue. In this connection we welcome the announcement that a major contributor is expected to make a payment of \$300 million that would ensure that such a trend would be maintained.

Mr. Chairman,

5. This year has witnessed a surge in the budget for peacekeeping operations with assessments totaling \$4.147 billion compared to \$2.260 billion last year as a result of new operations in Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti. We can expect an increase in the budget for peacekeeping operations with the possibility of new peacekeeping operations coming up. We believe that on the financing of peacekeeping operations, a proper balance should be struck between the level and urgency with which peacekeeping activities are funded and availability of resources needed for full implementation of all programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly, particularly in the economic and social spheres.

6. My delegation notes with concern that the International Tribunals and several ongoing peacekeeping operations have had to resort to borrowing funds

from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions. Last year, for the first time, the United Nations did not have to resort to borrowing for its regular budget. However, this positive trend could not be maintained this year, as the United Nations has had to borrow once from these accounts. We sincerely hope that such a situation would not arise further in the future.

7. The United Nations requires a strong and dependable financial base to carry out its many important tasks entrusted to it by Member States. Thus, Member States must ensure that the United Nations is provided with the necessary financial resources needed for it to fulfill its mandate effectively and efficiently. We fully understand the difficult situation faced by some Member States in meeting their obligations. But we feel that everyone has to try their best to ensure that the good work done by the United Nations can continue unencumbered by lack of financial resources.

Mr. Chairman,

8. My delegation recognizes that there are some Member States who are faced with situations beyond their control that hamper their ability to make payments and settle their arrears. Nevertheless, we urge the more capable Member States to honour their assessed contribution. Malaysia, on its part, will continue to honour its obligation seriously by paying its assessment in full, on time and unconditionally.

Thank you.