

Thank You, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your recent election to the presidency of the 5th Committee during this 61st session of the General Assembly, and to extend my congratulations to the other members of the bureau.

We take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, Mr. Bernardo Griever, for introducing the report of the Committee (A/61/11), as well as to thank Chief of Contributions Services Mr. Mark Gilpin for his introduction of the report on multi-year payment plans (A/61/68).

Mr. Chairman,

The Angolan Delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and takes this opportunity to congratulate the Delegation of South Africa for the commendable work that they have been doing in guiding the G-77.

We attach great importance to the United Nations scales of assessments, as this organization can only be kept up and running if Member States make their contributions to the organizations and honour their commitments to pay.

Mr. Chairman,

Angola has noted the 700% increase in its scale of assessments and expresses its deep concern with the approach taken in the preparation of the scale of assessments for the period of 2007-2009.

In the report, it was pointed out in paragraph 55 of the report A/61/11, that in some cases, countries were contacted directly. Since no other country has had such an increase in their scale of assessments, it appears noticeable that such a situation would raise concerns. We would have liked to know that at least the Mission of Angola had been contacted.

Resolution 58/1 B of December 2004 states that Members States make their contributions in accordance to their capacity to pay. Therefore, Angola will, as it has in the past honour its commitment. However, the circumstances in which we are now do not help us in responding to this substantial increase in our contribution to the United Nations' scale of assessments.

Angola, a country that experienced the longest internal conflict in Africa, has now peace as a reality, but the fundamental objective of Angola is still the definitive elimination of conflict factors in order to prevent the scourge of war. The reconstruction of the country, the reintegration of the displaced population, refugees and former combatants, the rehabilitation of the economy as well as the further reduction of poverty, have not yet reached the stage where we can absorb drastic changes in our contribution to the United Nations.

We recognize the utmost importance of the issues in relation to the scale of assessments of the United Nations, and in the context of methodology, we favour that the scale should be based on the most current comprehensible and comparable data available for Gross National Income (GNI), as well as Market Exchange Rates for scales, except in cases where its use cause excessive fluctuations and or distortions in the GNI of Member States, in which case price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be used.

The debt burden adjustment is important and we support maintaining this element of the methodology, as well as maintaining the floor at 0.001% and the maximum assessment rate for Least Developed countries at the current level of 0.01%.

In reference to the introduction of the minimum assessment rate for permanent members of the Security Council, we believe that such proposal is not in line with the capacity to pay.

We will also not support any proposal that places a colossal burden on our country or any other country if it does not reflect the country's true capacity to pay.

My Delegation supports the exemption, under Article 19 of the UN Charter, of those countries in a difficult situation, and that have reasoned their inability to pay on conditions beyond their control.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, we thank all delegations that have shown sympathy to our situation. Furthermore, in the spirit of maintaining solidarity and unity for a stronger organization, the Angolan delegation believes that this committee will find a course of action which is favourable for all members of the organization.

Thank you!