



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 138 : SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR THE APPORTIONMENT
OF EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4 OCTOBER 2013, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

On the outset, let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Fifth Committee for the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

2. My delegation also wishes to thank Mr. Bernardo Griever, Chairperson of the Committee on Contributions for the introduction of the report of the Seventy Third session as contained in document A/68/11. We also thank Mr. Lionel Berridge the Chief Contributions and Policy Coordination Service for introducing the Secretary-General's report on the Multi-year payment plans as in document A/68/68. Malaysia takes note of the recommendations made by the Committee on Contributions and its decision to further consider various elements in the scale of assessment methodology at future sessions.

3. Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation takes note that the report of the Committee on Contributions emphasised that the same methodology is being used for the assessment period between 2013 - 2015. My delegation is of the view that the current methodology used by the Committee remains valid and representing the requirements of Member States as it takes into account prevailing economic conditions.

5. Malaysia shares the view as reflected in the report of the Committee on Contributions that the scale of assessment should be based on the most current, comprehensive and comparable data to reflect the latest Gross National Income (GNI). We believe that a more accurate data would fulfil the work of the Committee in identifying the most up-to date assessment of Member States. Malaysia has and would continue to participate in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia is of the view that Member States are legally obligated to finance the United Nations. We call on all Member States not to impose any conditions in fulfilling their financial obligations as this will impede the functioning of the United Nations. Even under the current methodology of assessment; Malaysia's contribution has seen an up-scale from 0.253 percent last year to 0.281 percent this year. In spite of the increase, Malaysia would continue to pay its contributions in a consistent and timely manner.

7. At the same time Malaysia also recognises the importance of the principle of the 'capacity to pay', as a fundamental element in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. My delegation upholds this principle as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China which was held on 26 September 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia also takes note of the continued work of the Committee on Contributions to improve the current methodology on the scale of assessment, with the objective of collecting higher contributions from developed and developing countries. Malaysia welcomes this effort. At the same time, Malaysia urges the Committee to continue to take into account the views of Member States, especially developing countries which have limited capacity to pay.

9. Malaysia is fully aware that some countries may face the burden of financing the United Nations as reflected in the report of the Committee. In this regard, Malaysia recognises that the Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia as countries that are under-going considerable security, political and economic challenges that is beyond their control. Malaysia shares the view as reported by the Committee on Contributions that these countries should be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of the sixty-eight session in accordance to Article 19 of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Malaysia believes that the issue of assessment in the financing of the United Nations requires the political will of both developed and developing countries. Bridging this 'economic gap' will not be an easy task. We must all be pragmatic and practical in our views and deliberations. In this regard, we call on you Mr. Chairman, to work with all sides in overcoming the differences in order to reach a consensual agreement on this agenda item. We also call for all negotiations on this agenda item be conducted in good faith and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

11. To conclude, I would like to express Malaysia's full support to you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat, in bringing progress to the work of the Fifth Committee at this session. We wish you success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.