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STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 136 : SCALE OF ASSESSMENT
FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
69TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Fifth Committee for the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

2. I would also like to thank Mr. Bernardo Griever, Chairperson of the Committee on Contributions for introducing the report of the Seventy Fourth session as contained in document A/69/11. My delegation would also like to thank Mr. Lionel Berridge, Chief, Contributions and Policy Coordination Service for introducing the Secretary-General's report on the Multi-year payment plans as in document A/68/70.

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

Mr. Chairman,

4. The United Nations is an international organization where we continue to rely on in times of peace and when international security is at risk. The Organization needs resources that would enable it to carry-out its responsibility effectively. Without resources, the United Nations would be weakened and unable to manifest our collective vision of international peace and security. In this regard, the scale of assessment for the apportionment of expenses is an important agenda item not only to the Fifth Committee, but to the well-being of the Organization as well.

5. As a Member State, Malaysia would always support for an equitable and balanced methodology of the scale of assessment. We believe that Member States should support the methodology of assessment by providing the latest information and data. Only with the cooperation of all Member States can the United Nations ensure the assessments are made relevant to the current economic situation and realities.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We believe that Member States are obligated to contribute to the United Nations. Like other Member States, we too have seen the dynamics of international economics taking effect on Malaysia. Standing at 0.281 percent, Malaysia would continue to fulfill our obligation to financially support this Organization in a consistent and timely manner.

7. My delegation would like to underscore the importance of the multi-year payment plans as a method payment. We believe Member States should take advantage of the plan as it would enable Member States which are experiencing financial difficulties reduce their unpaid assessment. Such collaboration between Member States and the UN in using the plan would demonstrate their commitment in meeting their financial obligations to this august body.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia is fully aware that changes in the international economics situation have burdened numerous Member States. In this regard, the principle on the capacity to pay should remain valid as the basis in determining Member States' share of contributions to the United Nations. At the same time, we would support the work of the Committee on Contributions in improving the current methodology on the scale of assessment, with the objective of collecting higher contributions from developed and developing countries. Nonetheless, we would remind the Committee to take into account the views of Member States, especially developing countries which have limited capacity to pay.

Mr. Chairman,

9. While we deliberate on the importance of the scale of assessment and its apportionment, there are some countries that are unable to share their responsibility due to prevailing security, political and economic challenges that are beyond their control. Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia are facing difficult challenges. In this regard, the General Assembly should permit these countries to vote until the end of the sixty-ninth session in accordance to Article 19 of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The issue of scale of assessment and financing the United Nations requires our collective attention. We must be reminded that the United Nations belongs to its members and as such, it is the Member States who are responsible to ensure the Organization's effective functioning. Time and again, we must be pragmatic and practical in our views and deliberations. We urge that any discussion on the scale of assessments must reflect a fair, equitable and balanced rate, agreed upon by all Member States. Finally, we call on all Member States to remain faithful in the discussions so that we would reach an amicable conclusion to this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.