

GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

19 EAST 47TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

MRS GLORIA POKU
COUNSELLOR

ON

AGENDA ITEM 122

**SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT
OF EXPENSES TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Please accept, on behalf of yourself and the members of your bureau, the warmest congratulations of the Ghana delegation on your election to steer the affairs of the Fifth Committee during the 61st Regular Session of the General Assembly. We assure you of our cooperation at all times, confident that under your able leadership, this Committee would be able to discharge its onerous responsibilities fully and on time.

My delegation wishes to thank Mr. Bernado Greiver, Chairman of the Committee on Contributions (COC) for the presentation of the report of the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on Contributions contained in document No. A/61/11. Similar thanks go to the Controller Mr Warren Sach for his report of the Secretary-General on Multi-Year payment plans (A/61/68).

The delegation of Ghana, associates itself with the statement made by, the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China on the Scale of Assessment for the apportionment of the Expenses of the United Nations. However ,I wish to take this opportunity to re-iterate Ghana's position on some of the issues raised in the COC's report.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reiterate that the principle of the 'capacity to pay' should be the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and is of the view that developing countries should not be assessed at a rate higher than their capacity to pay as a result of any adjustments in the scale.

My delegation also expresses its acceptance of the COC's recommendation that the scale of assessments should be based on the most current, comprehensive and comparable data available for Gross National Income (GNI). We also support the application of Market Exchange Rates (MER) for the purpose of the scale, except where this would cause some fluctuations or distortions in the income of some member states in which case, Price Adjusted Rates of Exchange (PARE) or other appropriate conversion rates should be applied.

We see great merit in retaining of the debt burden adjustments as an element in determining the capacity of Member States to pay. The socio -economic development of many developing countries have been adversely affected by the heavy debt burden, which, to a large extent, has affected their capacity to pay.

My delegation recalls our support for the General Assembly's decision for the minimum rate of assessment during the period 1998-2000 to be set at 0.001 per cent and

the maximum assessment rate for Least Developed Countries not to exceed 0.01 per cent as it mitigates their burden. We wish to reaffirm this support for the 2007-2009 scale consideration.

The continuing relevance of low per capita income adjustment, which has been among the elements of the scale methodology in use from the beginning of this Organization, cannot be over emphasized. It is the considered view of my delegation that this element should continue to be an integral part of the scale methodology because of the relief it provides to developing countries by reducing their assessable national income.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations desperately needs adequate financial resources to fully implement its mandated programmes and activities. The financial problems of the United Nations can only be resolved by the payment of all contributions, including arrears by defaulting Member States in full, on time and without conditions; in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In accordance with Article 19 of the Charter, my delegation supports the need to extend sympathetic consideration to those Member States that are unable to meet their financial obligations due to genuine socio-economic and political difficulties. In this regard, Ghana agrees with the conclusion of the Committee on Contributions that the failure of the Central African Republic, Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Somalia Tajikistan and Sao Tome and Principe to make the minimum payment necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 was due to conditions beyond their control, and as such support the adoption of the resolution to permit the above-mentioned member states to vote until the end of the 61st session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the conclusion by the COC that the system of multi-year payment plans had made a positive contribution in encouraging and assisting member states to reduce their unpaid assessed contributions. To this end, Ghana commends those member states that submitted plans and honoured the commitments that they have made under the plans.

I thank you Sir,