



**AGENDA ITEM 122: "SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS"
STATEMENT BY MR. ANTHONY ANDANJE
OF THE DELEGATION OF KENYA
Tuesday, October 10, 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, Mr. Bernardo Griever, for introducing the report of the Committee (A/61/11). I also thank Mr. Mark Gilpin, Chief of the Contributions Service, for introducing the Secretary-General's Report on Multi-Year Payment Plans (A/61/68).

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G-77 and China, by the Representative of South Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes the issue of financing is at the very core of the struggle for the future of the United Nations. It will affect significantly what kind of Organization will be in place this century.

Finance is a difficult issue because of the differing capacity of Member States of highly unequal economic power to contribute financially to the United Nations. The thorny questions of burden-sharing and claims of greater "ownership" are thus ever present.

Mr. Chairman,

It should be borne in mind that the application of the Charter principle of equality that is intrinsic in the assessment system is that every Member State has the right to have equal interest in the well-being of the Organization protected.

Membership in the UN involves a comprehensive investment of all Member States without exception in the advancement of common goals of the Charter; in the benefit of international co-operation and in the maintenance of capacities of the United Nations to implement its mandates.

The regular operating costs of the United Nations should continue to be financed primarily by assessment based on the "relative capacity" to pay. We expect the principle of relative capacity to pay to work integrally with the Charter obligation of every Member to pay its dues without any conditionalities.

The principle of tolerance of failure to pay by Member States in genuine difficulty must be retained.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is convinced the current assessment system continues to offer an equitable method for the United Nations to raise revenues from its members. Nevertheless, as reflected in the Report of the Committee on Contributions, the methodology used is open to some criticisms in detail:

- Difficulty of establishing accurate base period;
- Issues concerning the definition of capital consumption; and
- The working of some adjustment instruments in certain circumstances.

At both the top and bottom of the scale, there are some obvious disparities between relative capacity to pay and assigned assessment percentages.

Kenya recognizes that because of paucity of data, it is not possible to arrive at an accurate calculation of the national income of some states. Member States with weak statistical capacities should be provided with technical assistance to improve the data basis for calculating national incomes.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes some of the technical problems can be resolved during this session. They do not call into question the assessment system itself.

We look forward to working with other delegations in charting the direction in negotiations for the Scale of Assessments for 2007-2009.

Thank you!