

73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Agenda Item 138: Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations

India Statement

By Mr. Mahesh Kumar

First Secretary

23 October 2018

Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

2. We align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 by Egypt.
3. We thank Under Secretary General Ms. Jan Beagle for briefing us on the UN's financial situation.

Madam Chair,

4. It is incumbent upon all the member states to fulfill their legal responsibility to the organization, in terms of making their assessed contributions on time.
5. Over the years mandates to the organization have been growing, but both, the regular and the peacekeeping budget, have been shrinking in real and nominal terms. To make it even more difficult for the organization, the arrears have also grown.
6. This situation puts those member states that would have benefitted from the efficient implementation of mandates and the member states that would have paid their assessments on time to a serious disadvantage. Long unsettled issue of closed PKOs and pending COE reimbursements of many member states, including India, from the closed PKOs is a case in point.

Madam Chair,

7. India is also among those 76 member states who continue to be owed significant sums towards troop and COE reimbursements from the active peacekeeping missions. Nevertheless, we have continued to support the UN, and are cumulatively the largest troop contributor. As at 16 October 2018, India is among the 43 member states that

have paid their assessments in full. India has, in fact, paid in full its regular budget assessment for the year 2019 in advance.

8. We note that apart from \$221 million outstanding payments to Member States, large reimbursements related to Letters of Assist (\$164 million) and death and disability claims (\$8 million) were also outstanding. We hope that these would be settled expeditiously.

Madam Chair,

9. While we have waited for a very long time for reimbursements, as other developing countries have, there must be a deadline by when we can expect the United Nations to make these reimbursements in full, including those from the closed PKOs.

10. We believe that member states can reform this situation and make the organization relevant and responsive to its membership. A good first step would be if all members pledge to pay their assessed contributions, and arrears, in full without conditions.

I thank you, Madam Chair.