



United Nations General Assembly
Fifth Committee

~~Agenda Item 134 Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2012-2013~~

~~Statement by Mr. Sérgio Roberto dos Santos~~
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Minister Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

~~27 October 2011~~
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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor in a formal session, I wish to congratulate you on your election to chair this Committee, as well as the other members of the bureau. I can assure you of my delegation's support and constructive participation. I would also like to express my appreciation for the work done by Ambassador Gerardo Escobar of Guatemala during his chairmanship in the 65th session.

2. I would like to thank H.E. Mr. Dan Kiwanja, the Secretary-General, for his contribution to the programme of work of the Commission. I would also like to thank Mr. G. V. K. ... for his contribution to the work of the Commission. I would also like to thank the related Committee's report.

3. Brazil would like to associate itself with the statements made by Argentina, and ... of the Group of 77 and China, and Chile, on behalf of the Rio Group.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The consideration of the regular budget is a crucial time for Member States and the Secretariat. We have the opportunity to examine the programme of work of the United Nations and decide on the level and allocation of financial resources necessary to implement the mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies. However, before we begin to scrutinize the ... the regular budget in this Organization

5. We are convinced that the financial resources must reflect in a balanced manner the Organization's three pillars: peace and security, human rights and development. These three pillars must be considered as indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. We cannot agree with the view that peace and security should be financed by assessed contributions, and that human rights and development should be financed by voluntary contributions.

6. Brazil is also convinced of the need to further strengthen UNCTAD, the regional commissions and the Development Account, and a greater share of its financing through the regular budget.

7. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, the proposed budget presented to us today does not give due priority to development activities. We are deeply concerned with the fact that almost all the budget sections strengthened in 2000 on the basis of the report on development-related activities. We are particularly concerned by the proposed cuts in the financial resources of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), some of which will impact programme areas.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Brazil is concerned with the current funding arrangements of special political missions.

has increased tenfold in the past decade. Currently, it constitutes 20% of the regular budget.

UNAMA and UNAMIL, representing half of this amount, or 10% with the two largest missions, UNAVEM and STAVEM, representing half of this amount, or 5% of the budget. This has caused a large distortion to the regular budget to the detriment of other

9. The General Assembly has reaffirmed, time and time again, that the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security should be borne in mind in connection with their contributions to the financing of peace and security operations. Therefore, it would make perfect sense to separate the financing of special political missions from the regular budget and to fund them through the peacekeeping scale of assessments.

10. Moreover, it is undeniable that the current arrangements for backstopping special political missions - which are a direct result of the artificial separation from peacekeeping - are unsustainable. They are a direct result of the current separation from peacekeeping. They are unsustainable because they place a heavy burden on the ability of the Secretariat to smoothly deploy peacekeeping operations. They are unsustainable because they place a heavy burden on the ability of the Secretariat to smoothly deploy peacekeeping operations. The entire membership and the Secretariat are paying a hefty price for this situation. It is our duty to tackle this issue as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chairman,

11. I would like to point out that Member States have been asking more and more from the United Nations, which is an evidence of the importance we bestow on the Organization. The increase in the overall level of resources requested for the budget, from US\$ 17.1 billion in 2011 to US\$ 21.4 billion in 2012, is a clear indication of this.

12. However, the budget document before us displays an evident contradiction. Despite the overall increase, cuts are being proposed in the activities funded through assessed contributions. A 6.7% cut in the budget for assessed contributions fills the gap between the mandated activities and the resources needed. The cuts proposed therefore represent a movement toward greater dependency on voluntary contributions.

13. The cuts in the budget for assessed contributions are a direct result of the artificial separation from peacekeeping. They are unsustainable because they place a heavy burden on the ability of the Secretariat to smoothly deploy peacekeeping operations. They are unsustainable because they place a heavy burden on the ability of the Secretariat to smoothly deploy peacekeeping operations.

important mandates approved by the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and other

extra-budgetary funds

14. The Organization should not replace regular and predictable funds for core activities nor be used to reorient priorities agreed by Member States. We must ensure the United Nations with the necessary governance mechanisms to ensure proper oversight and accountability over a

Mr. Chairman,

15. In crisis situations, such as the one the world is currently facing, it is common to call for "extraordinary" measures. Political pressure for action means often times we sacrifice quality of analysis for the sake of superficial measures. The result we fear are negative unintended consequences for the years to come.

16. We are convinced that the Secretariat can be more efficient and effective in its business with increased transparency and accountability toward the membership, and we appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard. Nonetheless, we share the concerns expressed by the ACABQ that the cuts imposed were not based on an in-depth analysis of the programme. As a result, the budget fails to provide sufficient resources that mandate implementation, particularly in the area of development, will not be adequately supported by the education

Mr. Chairman,

17. The task in front of us is certainly complex. As the membership is called upon to fulfill its responsibility to finance the activities of the Organization, we have an opportunity to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to its work. You can count on my delegation's full support to a successful conclusion of this negotiation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

