

increases might occur, but we also expected that such increases would be kept to an absolute minimum. Instead, since the budget was approved, we have already agreed to two separate additions, totaling \$200 million for recosting; and we have also funded add-ons made necessary by new mandates, such as special political missions in Yemen and the Sahel.

But now, however, the current report seeks an additional \$160 million in recosting costs above and beyond the approved budget. Such a request is not typical of how most businesses and organizations function.

We are essentially budgeting by looking backward, saying the UN budget is what we spent, rather than saying a UN budget is the envelope defining what we have available to spend. The solution is not to keep coming back to this committee for more money; the solution is to balance unforeseen increases with selective cutbacks and improved management. There is an unfortunate tendency to act as if none of these cost increases are within our control – that it is all the result of methodologies that are written in stone and that cannot be altered or countered. The truth is that each of these increases and these methodologies is the product of choice. And what we have the power to choose, we do have the ability to work together to change.

My government proposes that we find a way to accommodate the \$160 million that the Secretariat is requesting without adding to the bottom line of the 2012-2013 budget, or asking our taxpayers and yours to bear this additional burden. We know that, if we have the will, we can find a way to accomplish this. It is essential that we do so. When I return to Washington, and when other permanent representatives return to their capitals, we want to be able to report to our taxpayers that the UN has entered a new era and that governments can be confident that the resources they invest will be used wisely. We want to be able to report that we have put a firm cap on spending for the current biennium, that we have set the stage for a lean and rigorous budget for 2014 and 2015, and that we have adopted a new and more disciplined approach to management, so that the ceiling on budgets already approved will not repeatedly be raised.

But for this to happen, the Secretariat and UN member states must be willing to seek common ground and creative approaches, to engage in dialogue, and to strive to narrow differences of opinion and perspective which we all know exist. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the United States and other major contributors have relied since 1986 on the assurance that key budgetary decisions in this Committee will be made on the basis of consensus, and a definition of consensus should not include a decision that does not command the support of the UN's major contributors. I am appealing to you to work with us to do better this time.

It is within our power, Mr. Chairman, to chart a new course for a renewed UN. It is our power, but it is also our duty, because those who depend on this organization are depending on us to succeed.

Thank you very much.