



**THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, MAIN PART OF THE 73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 23 OCTOBER 2018**

**Thank you, Madam Chair:**

**1 I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on agenda item 138 Improving the financial situation of the United Nations**

**2 ASEAN thanks Ms Jan Beagle, Under Secretary-General for Management, for her detailed presentation on the financial situation of the Organisation on 16 October 2018. We are also grateful to the Office of Contributions for updated information on the assessments of Member States, and their continued**

**regular budget and peacekeeping assessments in full this year; as compared to last year. ASEAN is cognizant of the difficulties that some Member States face in fulfilling their financial obligations, and this is added reason to commend these Member States for their efforts to pay their assessed contributions in spite of difficulties at home. We take this opportunity as well to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for progress in addressing outstanding payments owed to troop and police contributing countries, who put themselves in harm's way for the cause of maintaining peace and security.**

**Madam Chair;**

**5            In order for the United Nations to function effectively, it is critical that the Organisation receives sufficient resources to fulfil the mandates given by Member States. Our Charter obligations create a pact between the Secretariat and Member States. As Member States, we come together to create mandates. Having created these mandates, we must then give the Secretary-General sufficient resources to implement them. The Secretariat has a responsibility to manage our resources efficiently and effectively. But Member States also have a responsibility**

**Madam Chair;**

**8** In recent years, the share of assessed contributions borne by ASEAN countries has continued to rise. Even so, the 10 Member States of ASEAN remain committed to fulfilling our financial obligations to the Organisation. Assessed contributions are Charter obligations. Such obligations, solemnly entered into by Member States, must be upheld. Championing the cause of multilateralism must go beyond empty political statements, and must be backed by concrete action.

**Madam Chair;**

**9** ASEAN calls on all Member States to uphold our legal and political responsibilities to provide the Secretary-General with the resources he needs to implement mandates and bring reform to life. Only then can we ensure that the Organisation is adequately equipped to address the challenges it faces in a timely and effective manner. For our part, ASEAN reiterates our readiness to engage in constructive and inclusive deliberations so that we can find a sustainable and just resolution to the matter at hand.

**I thank you, Madam Chair.**

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