



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS BY HE AMBASSADOR BURHAN GAFOOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 140: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AGENDA ITEM 149: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2018**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 I have the honour to speak once again on behalf of the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on agenda item 140: Scale of assessments for the es

2 ASEAN thanks Ambassador Bernardo Griever, Chair of the Committee on Contributions, and Mr Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget, and Accounts for presenting their respective reports.

Madam Chair,

3 ASEAN reiterates that all Member States must fulfil their obligations to bear the expenses of the Organisation, in full, on time, and without conditions. However, we recognise that some countries face genuine difficulties in meeting their financial obligations. ASEAN therefore supports the Committee on

Contributions' recommendation to allow these countries to vote until the end of the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

Madam Chair,

4           The current methodology governing both scales of assessments have been adopted by consensus for 18 years. This longstanding consensus reflects our common agreement on the principles underpinning the scales. These principles were reached after extremely difficult negotiations in 2000. This agreement, solemnly entered into by sovereign states, is not to be taken lightly.

5           The first and main principle governing the scale is capacity to pay, and ASEAN reaffirms that capacity to pay must remain the main criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. Under the current methodology, economies that have grown faster, like many ASEAN Member States, will see increases in their share of assessments. Economies that have grown more slowly have seen decreases in their scales. According to the latest report of the Committee on Contributions, about 60 developing countries will see a rise in their contributions to the Regular Budget. On the other hand, nearly 30 European and OECD countries will see a decline in their share of assessments.

6



Madam Chair,