

Statement by Richard Croker, Minister-Counsellor of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mission to the United Nations on the financial situation of the United Nations

14 October 2020

Mr Chair,

I would like to thank Under Secretary-General, Catherine Pollard, for her presentation last week on the current financial situation of the United Nations.

The United Kingdom remains concerned at the dire liquidity problems that the United Nations has to continue to grapple with - for both its regular budget and peacekeeping operations. We cannot emphasise strongly enough the importance of the United Nations having the right resources and tools to deliver all its mandates.

We spend a substantial amount of time in this Committee each year carefully evaluating and agreeing the United Nations budgets in order to enable it to deliver the results we want. But in order for this to be worthwhile, and if the Organisation is to deliver the high quality results we expect of it, we must follow through with our commitment and meet the financial obligations that flow from those decisions. We repeat our calls on all member states to pay their assessed contributions in full and in good time, and encourage those member states with arrears to take steps to address these.

We are pleased to hear that collections for peacekeeping operations have improved compared to this this time last year. And that this, along with voluntary contributions for non-mandated periods and cash pooling between active missions, continue to improve the overall liquidity of active peacekeeping operations.

We commend the UN Controller, and the rest of the Organisation, for their efforts to prioritise how the United Nations uses its available resources, in order to avert a disruption to operations and lessen the impact on mandate delivery. We would be interested to hear what lessons the Organisation has identified during this period, that may be utilised in future to ensure a more efficient and effective operation, whq6400 m 98 m2

effective manner. In this regard, we encourage the Secretariat to continue to prioritise and use its resources effectively, and where necessary agilely, in response to new mandates, and emerging priorities anas ana