

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN
NATIONS BY MR TERRENCE TEO,
COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 143:
IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS, 14 MAY 2021**

14 May 2021

Thank you, Mr Chair.

1 I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Agenda Item 143: Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2 ASEAN thanks Ms Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, for her presentation on 7 May and for her updates today. We also thank Mr Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller and Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, for his presentation on the management of the liquidity situation on 10 May.

Mr Chair,

4 Notwithstanding this, the current unpaid assessments remain large enough to pose serious liquidity challenges quarter of the year. Over the past years, the Organisation has had to impose drastic measures to manage the liquidity situation. ASEAN stresses that the Organisation should not be perpetually operating in a cash-conservation mode, as this has serious negative impacts on mandate implementation.

5 We are pleased to note that the measures approved in General Assembly resolution 73/307, such as cash pooling for active peacekeeping missions and the advance collection of peacekeeping assessments, have borne some fruit in improving the liquidity situation. But let us be clear: these measures merely alleviate the symptoms, rather than address the root cause of the issue. The simplest and most effective solution remains for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. First, this is a legal obligation that is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Second, having given our mandates to the Secretary-General, Member States have the moral obligation to ensure that adequate resources are provided to implement these mandates.

Mr Chair,

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