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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS  
Sixteenth session, 15 October 1957  
New York

ASSESSMENT OF THE SUDAN

The following communication has been addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations and is submitted to the Committee for consideration:

"New York, 14 October 1957

With reference to my conversation with you this morning, I am enclosing the statement made by our representative in the Fifth Committee during this current session. In addition to the arguments contained in this statement, I should like to emphasize the following points:-

(a) We do not have as yet any National Income Statistics; any estimate is therefore arbitrary and might lead to misleading results if it is over-estimated.

(b) Our ability to pay, which is one of the criteria of the Committee on Contributions, depends not only on the physical ability of foreign exchange but also on the prospects of foreign exchange earnings. This in turn depends on the value of foreign trade and in the case of the Sudan on its cotton sales. The Sudan, for a number of factors, is not able to sell the bulk of its cotton this year. The amount of carry-over will make it similarly difficult to dispose of its future crops.

(c) The Sudan has particular difficulty in earning dollars and is going to request formally for treatment under General Assembly Resolution No. 376 13 (IX) of December, 1954, to pay part of its share in other convertible currencies.

(d) In view of the above, we sincerely hope that the Sudan's contribution is to be fixed at the minimum level which is the Statutory floor of .04%.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) Yacoub Osman  
Permanent Representative of the Sudan  
to the United Nations

Statement delivered by Mohamed Abdel Maged Ahmed  
Fifth Committee (Twelfth Session of the General Assembly)  
30 September 1957

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS EXPENSES

Mr. Chairman,

I wish, at the outset, to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation for the high office you have been rightly chosen to occupy. Knowing you, Sir, as we do, we are confident that the Fifth Committee will under your good guidance fulfil the duties to the full satisfaction of every expectation. I am sure, Sir, that through your knowledge, tact and wisdom, you will steer the proceedings of this Committee to the achievement of its serious tasks. We wish you Sir, a happy and satisfying term of office. I should also like to congratulate the Committee on its very wise choice of Sayed Ahmed El Messiri as our Vice-President and Senior De Pines as our Rapporteur. They have the utmost confidence and esteem of my delegation and I am sure they will serve the Committee with sincerity, devotion and competence.

Mr. Chairman,

The question of our contribution to the United Nations expenses is one of great importance to us. It is an obligation which we are happy to discharge and a commitment in which we have voluntarily entered. I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to assure you Sir that whatever scale of assessment is fixed my country will accept. This however does not prevent us from drawing the attention of this Committee to certain facts about our economy which, we believe, will justify a reasonable scale of assessment which is compatible with our ability to pay. Our ability as such is governed by our production, productivity and earning power as well as by the magnitude of our expenditure on vital goods and services.

Mr. Chairman,

In a statement delivered to this Committee on the subject last November, I stressed the following points about my country's financial position:

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1. The great financial obligations which followed our independence in January of last year proved to be heavier than expected.
2. The character of our agricultural economy is by definition subject to fluctuations and makes it difficult for us to enter into great financial commitments without risk and uncertainty.
3. Our dependence on one cash crop - cotton - as an earner of foreign exchange other than dollars render our dollar income slender and insufficient to finance our dollar purchases of capital and investment goods.

In view of the above my delegation has requested the Committee to take these facts into consideration when coming to approve our scale of assessment and to give us the benefit of the provision contained in the General Assembly's Resolution No. 582 of 21 December 1951, by which the Committee on Contributions was requested to give additional recognition to countries with low per capita income. I have also referred to Resolution No. 876 13 (IX) of December 1954 empowering the Secretary-General to accept, in justifiable circumstances, payment of part of the contribution in currencies other than United States dollars and submitted that this wise resolution applies with special strength to our particular case.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States dollar is a scarce currency in our foreign reserves. Our trade with the United States is not active because we have nothing to offer to her which she does not have. Our cotton, on which we almost exclusively depend for foreign exchange happened to be a specialty of America even in its extra long and super qualities in the production of which we also specialize. My delegation feels we have a strong and straight forward case for treatment under the provision to which I have just referred.

My delegation finds itself extremely reluctant to make such an appeal. It is prepared to meet its commitment whatever the outcome of your deliberations in this regard may be. It is not a need for economy that has prompted us to seek the co-operation of the distinguished members of this Committee nor is it a

desire on our part to minimize our contribution to this world organization. Indeed, we are not merely participating in its formal expenses, but we have also contributed to its voluntary programmes which are financed outside its budget. It is a sense of reality that has prompted us to place before you the facts we have stated and a desire to be consistent with our means and ability, and with the principles of national income, per capita income and ability to pay.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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