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Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions and decisions on the scale of assessments, in particular resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997,

Recalling also [paragraph 1 of] its resolution 48/223 C of 23 December 1993,

Having considered the reports of the Committee on Contributions,

Reaffirming Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 160 of its rules of procedure,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all Member States to bear the expenses of the United Nations, as apportioned by the General Assembly, in conformity with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms also* the fundamental principle that the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned among Member States broadly according to capacity to pay, as established in rule 160 of its rules of procedure;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that Permanent Missions are furnished in good time with copies of the national accounts questionnaire to enable them to make appropriate follow-up;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session ____ proposals for a scale of assessments for the period 2001-2003 as follows:

(a) A proposal based on the methodology used in preparing the scale of assessments for 2000, including the phasing out of the scheme of limits in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/223 B and 52/215 A;

* * *

(b) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Bahamas)

(iii) Data on gross national product;

(iv) A statistical base period of six years;

(v) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(vi) A debt burden adjustment based on total debt stock;

(vii) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period and a sliding gradient;

(viii) Redistribution of the adjustment to all Member States, consistent with the practice before 1979;

(ix) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(x) A maximum assessment rate of 25 per cent;

(xi) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

* * *

(c) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Brazil)

(i) Estimates of gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of six years;

(iii) Conversion rates as recommended by the Committee on Contributions, and as earlier spelled out in General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on the total debt stock;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a per capita income limit of the World Bank's current threshold for high-income countries (9,361 United States dollars), and a gradient of 80 per cent;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(vii) A ceiling rate of 25 per cent;

(viii) Individual rates of assessment of the least developed countries not to exceed the current level of 0.01 per cent;

(d) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Cameroon)

(i) Estimates of gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of six years;

(iii) Conversion rates as recommended by the Committee on Contributions, and as earlier spelled out in General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on the total debt stock;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and a gradient of 80 per cent without discrimination among Member States;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent and no ceiling;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries not to exceed the current level of 0.01 per cent;

* * *

(e) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Canada I)

(i) Gross national product as the base;

(ii) Three-year statistical base period with automatic annual recalculation;

(iii) Debt burden adjustment based on actual principal repayments (debt flow);

(iv) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(v) A two-tiered gradient for relief of Member states with a low per capita income; a gradient of 80 per cent for least developed countries and a gradient of 70 per cent for other Member States with a per capita income below the world average;

(vi) To address discontinuity, a phase-in mechanism, that is divided equally over the 2001-2003 period, for the redistribution of points received from the low per capita income adjustment, for Member States that cross the threshold from one scale period to the next (example: all other things being equal, if a Member State's assessment was 1.000 per cent when it was below the threshold, in the next scale period it would increase to 1.067 per cent, 1.134 per cent and 1.200 per cent over three years instead of going directly to 1.200);

(vii) Minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent and a maximum rate for least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(viii) A ceiling of 25 per cent;

* * *

(f) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Canada II)

(xiii) Gross national product as the base;

(xiv) Three-year statistical base period with automatic annual recalculation;

(xv) Debt burden adjustment based on actual principal repayments (debt flow);

(xvi) A two-tiered gradient for relief of Member States with a low per capita income; a gradient of 80 per cent for least developed countries and a gradient of 70 per cent for other Member States with a per capita income below the world average;

(xvii) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(xviii) To address discontinuity, a phase-in mechanism, that is divided equally over the 2001-2003 period, for the redistribution of points received from the low per capita income adjustment, for Member States that cross the threshold from one scale period to the next (example: all other things being equal, if a Member State’s assessment was 1.000 per cent when it was below the threshold, in the next scale period it would increase to 1.067 per cent, 1.134 per cent and 1.200 per cent over three years instead of going directly to 1.200);

(xix) Minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent and a maximum rate for least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(xx) A ceiling of 20 per cent;

* * *

(g) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (China)

(i) Estimates of gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of six years;

(iii) Conversion rates as recommended by the Committee on Contributions, and as earlier spelled out in General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on the total debt stock;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and a gradient of 80 per cent without discrimination among Member States;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent and no ceiling;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries not to exceed the current level of 0.01 per cent;

(viii) To limit to 25 per cent to developing countries previously benefiting from its application the effect of the end of the scheme of limits on an annual basis for the first four years of the post-transition period;

* * *

(h) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (European Union)

(i) Use of gross national product data as a *first approximation of capacity to pay*;

(ii) A statistical base period of three years, with automatic annual recalculation;

(iii) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) No debt burden adjustments;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and a gradient of 75 per cent;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate of 25 per cent;

(viii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(ix) No scheme of limits;

* * *

(i) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Group of 77 and China)

(i) Estimates of gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of six years;

(iii) Conversion rates as recommended by the Committee on Contributions, and as earlier spelled out in General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on the total debt stock;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and a gradient of 80 per cent;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent and a maximum assessment rate of 25 per cent;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries not to exceed the current level of 0.01 per cent;

(viii) To limit to 25 per cent to developing countries previously benefiting from its application the effect of the end of the scheme of limits on an annual basis for the first four years of the post-transition period;

* * *

(j) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Japan)

(i) Data on the gross national product as a first approximation of capacity to pay;

(ii) A constant statistical base period of three years;

(iii) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on actual principal payments;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and with gradients based on the GNP share of each eligible country as follows:

a. A gradient of 70 per cent to countries with a GNP share of less than 1 per cent;

b. A gradient of 40 per cent to countries with a GNP share of 1 per cent or more but less than 3 per cent;

c. A gradient of 10 per cent to countries with a GNP share of 3 per cent or more;

(vi) Non-eligibility of the permanent members of the Security Council for a low per capita income adjustment;

(vii) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(viii) A maximum assessment rate of 25 per cent;

(ix) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

* * *

(k) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (Uganda)

(i) The methodology used in preparing the scale of assessments for 2000, including the phasing out of the scheme of limits in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/223 B and 52/215 A, except for:

(ii) A maximum assessment rate of 22 per cent, with the points arising from the reduction of the maximum assessment rate from 25 per cent to be distributed only among Member States other than members of the Group of 77 and China;

* * *

(l) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (United States of America)

(i) Data on the gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of three years;

(iii) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A debt burden adjustment based on actual principal payments;

(v) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period, and with gradients based on the GNP share of each eligible country as follows:

a. A gradient of 80 per cent for countries with a GNP share of less than 1 per cent;

b. A gradient of 50 per cent for countries with a GNP share of 1 per cent or more;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate of 22 per cent;

(viii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

* * *

(m) A proposal to include the following elements and criteria: (United States of America)

(i) Data on the gross national product;

(ii) A statistical base period of three years;

(iii) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of General Assembly resolution 46/221 B of 20 December 1991;

(iv) A low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average world per capita income for the statistical base period and a gradient of 70 per cent;

(v) A minimum assessment rate of 2.5 per cent for the permanent members of the Security Council;

(vi) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;

(vii) A maximum assessment rate of 22 per cent;

(viii) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent.

B

The General Assembly

1. [*Requests* the Committee on Contributions, in the context of and with a view to improving the current methodology, to examine and report to the General Assembly the consequences of the sharply depressed levels of primary commodity prices in the international markets on commodity-dependent economies, and also the impact on those countries whose economies have the burden of hosting refugees;]

2. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions:

(a) To follow up on paragraph 30 of its report and to provide suggestions to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on how to address the combined effects of the loss of the low per capita income adjustment and having to contribute to the adjustment for Member States still below the threshold;

(b) To provide suggestions to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on how to deal with the effect of discontinuities experienced by Member States moving up through the low per capita income and the Member States just above the threshold;

[(c) To examine the long-term implications of the present criteria for determining the threshold of the low per capita income adjustment, and to recommend possible alternatives to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, including:

(i) Maintaining in the long run the overall level of benefit for all developing countries;

(ii) Avoiding the continuous exclusion of middle-income developing countries from the benefit of the adjustment;

(iii) Assessing whether any adjustment is warranted;]

3. [*Requests* the Committee on Contributions to continue its consideration of systematic criteria and approaches to deciding when market exchange rates should be replaced with a view to using sparingly price-adjusted rates of exchange in cases of excessive fluctuations and distortions, and using official exchange rates where Member States have fixed their exchange rates to the United States dollar or to another convertible currency.]