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Fifty-fifth session**Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session****Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations****Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the representatives of Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We recommend that the matter be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration during the main part of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to the present letter.

(Signed) Agim Nesho
Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations

(Signed) Abdallah Baali
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations

* Reissued for technical reasons.

(Signed) Movses **Abelian**
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto **Jordán-Pando**
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(Signed) Merle **Pajula**
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Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations

(Signed) Jānis **Priedkalns**
Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations

(Signed) Gediminas **Šerkšnys**
Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations

(Signed) Jacques Louis **Boisson**
Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations

(Signed) Ahmed **Snoussi**
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(Signed) Alfonso **Ortega Urbina**
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter Dickson **Donigi**
Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations

(Signed) Felipe H. **Mabilangan**
Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

(Signed) Janusz **Stańczyk**
Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations

(Signed) Sun Joun-yung
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

(Signed) Ion **Gorita**
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations

(Signed) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

(Signed) Ibra Deguène **Ka**
Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

(Signed) Allieu Ibrahim **Kanu**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations

(Signed) Igor **Vencel**
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Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations

(Signed) Samuel **Žbogar**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
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(Signed) John **de Saram**
Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

(Signed) Naste **Čalovski**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

(Signed) Volodymyr Y. **Yel'chenko**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

(Signed) Richard C. **Holbrooke**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

(Signed) Selwyn **Arutangai**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Vanuatu to the United Nations

(Signed) Mathias **Daka**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The proposed item reflects the need to address the important issue of ensuring a sound financial base for United Nations peacekeeping activities.

The United Nations current ad hoc system for apportioning expenses for United Nations peacekeeping operations was negotiated over eight days in 1973 for a single six-month, \$30 million peacekeeping mission in the Sinai. The Member States agreed unanimously at the time that the ad hoc scale would not set a precedent, and would not operate as a long-term mechanism for determining peacekeeping contributions. Yet the scale has not been updated since its inception. With peacekeeping expenses increasing rapidly at this time, a firm financial and operational foundation for these activities is essential. This year, the United Nations peacekeeping budget is slated to more than double, and will approach \$3 billion.

The General Assembly has repeatedly expressed concern regarding the ad hoc peacekeeping scale methodology. In October 1989 and again in September 1992 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine “anomalies” in the apportionment provided for by the ad hoc peacekeeping scale. The Member States should now embark on a thorough consideration of how to ensure that the peacekeeping scale of assessments can support current and future peacekeeping activities. This consideration should also include a discussion of operational reforms needed to strengthen peacekeeping and thereby make the best use of the peacekeeping resources. The Millennium Assembly provides a timely opportunity to address this critical issue.

In view of the Fifth Committee’s expertise in budgetary and financial matters, it is the most appropriate forum to consider this issue. We request that the item entitled “Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations” be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and allocated to the Fifth Committee.
