

**UNITED**



**NATIONS**

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWELFTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 10 (A/3714)**

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## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

# Report of the Committee on Contributions

## I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The sixteenth session of the Committee on Contributions was convened at the Headquarters of the United Nations from 15 to 19 October 1957. The following members were present:

Mr. A. H. Clough;  
Mr. Arthur S. Lall;  
Mr. Robert E. Merriam;  
Mr. Jiří Nosek;  
Mr. Sidney Pollock;  
Mr. Josué Sáenz;  
Mr. Agha Shahi.

2. Mr. René Charron and Mr. G. F. Saksin, who are members of the Committee, were unable to attend. They designated Mr. Jean D. Turpin and Mr. G. P. Arkadev respectively to represent them. The Committee accepted these designations on the understanding that the substitutes would remain in consultation with the members they represented. Mr. F. A. Galvão, one of the members, was unable to attend the session on account of illness.

3. The Committee re-elected Mr. Lall as Chairman and elected Mr. Sáenz as Vice-Chairman.

## II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4. On 14 October 1957, the General Assembly adopted the following resolution, supplementing the existing terms of reference of the Committee by giving certain specific directives with regard to the assessment of the new Member States (Ghana, Japan, the Federation of Malaya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia) and to the establishment of the scale of assessments for 1958 and future years (resolution 1137 (XII)):

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling its resolutions 14 (I) of 13 February 1946, 238 (III) of 18 November 1948 and 665 (VII) of 5 December 1952, regarding the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations among its Members and the fixing of the maximum contribution of any one Member State,*

*"Noting that, when the maximum contribution of any one Member State was fixed at 33.33 per cent effective 1 January 1954, the United Nations consisted of sixty Member States,*

*"Noting further that, since 1 January 1954, twenty-two States have been admitted to membership in the United Nations,*

*"Recalling its resolution 1087 (XI) of 21 December 1956, whereby the percentage contributions of the first sixteen new Member States admitted since 1 January 1954 were incorporated into the regular scale of assessments for 1956 and 1957 and were applied to reduce the percentage contributions of all Member States except that of the highest contributor and those of the Member States paying minimum assessments,*

*"Noting that there are now six new Member States—Ghana, Japan, the Federation of Malaya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia—whose percentage contributions have not yet been fixed by the Committee on Contributions or incorporated into the 100 per cent scale of assessments,*

*"Decides that:*

*"1. In principle, the maximum contribution of any one Member State to the ordinary expenses of*

the United Nations shall not exceed 30 per cent of the total;

*"2. The percentage contributions fixed by the Committee on Contributions for Japan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia for 1956 and 1957, and for Ghana and the Federation of Malaya for 1957, shall constitute miscellaneous income of the United Nations;*

*"3. The Committee on Contributions shall take the following steps in preparing scales of assessments for 1958 and subsequent years:*

*"(a) The percentage contributions fixed by the Committee on Contributions for Ghana, Japan, the Federation of Malaya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia for 1958 shall be incorporated into the 100 per cent scale for 1958; this incorporation shall be accomplished by applying the total amount of the percentage contributions of the six Member States named above to a *pro rata* reduction of the percentage contributions of all Members except those assessed at the minimum rate, taking into account the *per capita* ceiling principle and any reductions which may be required as a result of a review by the Committee on Contributions, at its session commencing 15 October 1957, of appeals from recommendations made previously by that Committee;*

*"(b) During the three-year period of the next scale of assessments (1959-1961), further steps to reduce the share of the largest contributor shall be recommended by the Committee on Contributions when new Member States are admitted;*

*"(c) The Committee on Contributions shall thereafter recommend such additional steps as may be necessary and appropriate to complete the reduction;*

*"(d) The percentage contribution of Member States shall not in any case be increased as a consequence of the present resolution."*

### III. SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR 1958

5. In accordance with the procedure established at the eighth session of the General Assembly, Member States were informed of the date fixed for the meetings of the Committee in order to enable them to submit any relevant information that they might wish the Committee to consider in arriving at its recommendations. A number of Member States furnished supplementary information and more up-to-date national income estimates in response to this request, and several Members submitted appeals for a change of assessments under rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

6. The existing scale of assessments had originally been approved by the General Assembly for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958, and at the same time it was decided that the scale should be reviewed by the Committee in 1958 (resolution 970 (X), paras. 1 and 2) for the purpose of establishing a new three-year scale for 1959-1961. On the admission of sixteen States to membership in the United Nations on 14 December 1955, the Committee last year recommended a revised scale to include the new Members. This scale was adopted by the Assembly for the years 1956 and 1957 (resolution 1087 (XI)). However, the Assembly decided to postpone until its twelfth session consideration of the scale of assessments for 1958, as well as the assessment of new Members admitted to the United Nations at the eleventh session.

7. As the existing scale of assessments was drawn up on the basis of average of national income estimates for the three years 1952, 1953 and 1954, the same basis of assessment has been used in arriving at the 1956, 1957 and 1958 rates of contribution for the new Member States. The Committee also applied to these States the usual allowance for low *per capita* income, and took into account other relevant factors affecting capacity to pay mentioned in the Committee's terms of reference.

8. In its review of appeals for changes in assessment, the Committee carefully considered representations for revision of their assessments made by delegations during the discussions at the twelfth session of the General Assembly, as well as specific appeals for revision from Member States. In considering individual appeals, the Committee decided that the basis for determining the relative validity of the requests should be the 1952-1954 national income estimates and related data on which the present scale was based. It also reached the conclusion that some more recent economic developments affecting capacity to pay, which were adduced in support of the appeals, such as difficulty in obtaining foreign exchange, were of such a general character that they might be equally relevant for many other Member States. The Committee considered that these developments of general applicability could best be taken into account at its next general review of the scale. On the present occasion, the Committee took them into account only where they drastically affected a country's economy.

9. In view of the fact that supporting evidence submitted by practically all the appellant Members did not indicate substantial changes in their economic position, and was of such a nature that it could only be evaluated in the context of an over-all review of the scale, the Committee reached the conclusion that special changes in their assessments should not be recommended until a comprehensive review was undertaken. However, the

Committee recognized that the information presented by certain Members seemed to suggest anomalies which, if verified by comprehensive analysis within the framework of a general review, might justify downward revisions. In the case of Hungary, the Committee found that the effects of the events in October and November last year on its economy had seriously impaired the country's capacity to pay and that a downward revision of the assessment was justified for 1958.

10. The additional contributions for the new Member States, after taking into account the proposed reduction in the assessment of Hungary, resulted in a total of 2.49 per cent which, in accordance with the General Assembly's directive (resolution 1137 (XII)), should be distributed *pro rata* among Member States excepting these at the minimum assessment.

11. The accepted practice for many years past has been for the scale of assessments to be expressed in figures carried to two decimal places. The Committee interpreted the Assembly's directive to mean that the additional contributions should be distributed *pro rata* among all Members, excepting those at the minimum assessment, to the extent possible within those limits. The Committee also considered the desirability of sharing the additional contributions by means of a scale carried to three decimals, but was of the opinion that the varying quality and comparability of the available statistical data did not justify this course. Adjustments of so small a magnitude could not be determined with any measure of certainty and the Committee has, therefore, maintained the accepted practice of a two-decimal scale. The Committee observed, furthermore, that a three-decimal scale would involve adjustments as low as 0.001 per cent which, when applied to a United Nations budget of approximately \$50 million, would represent only \$500.

12. In preparing the scale for 1958, the Committee was also instructed to take into account the *per capita* ceiling principle. While the *pro rata* distribution of the additional percentage contributions would normally result in full implementation of this principle, it was noted that the latest population statistics indicate a faster rate of population growth for Canada than for the United States of America. Taking this factor into consideration, the assessment now recommended for Canada is set at a slightly higher level than that which would result from a strict *pro rata* distribution, and the *per capita* ceiling principle has been maintained fully.

13. The scale of assessments established as outlined above, and recommended by the Committee for adoption in respect of Members' contributions to the budget of the United Nations for 1958, is as follows (the existing scale is also indicated for comparison):

#### UNITED NATIONS SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR 1958

Member States	Scale recommended for 1958	Present scale
Afghanistan .....	0.06	0.06
Albania .....	0.04	0.04
Argentina .....	1.14	1.17
Australia .....	1.61	1.65
Austria .....	0.35	0.36
Belgium .....	1.24	1.27
Bolivia .....	0.05	0.05
Brazil .....	1.06	1.09
Bulgaria .....	0.14	0.14
Burma .....	0.10	0.10

**UNITED NATIONS SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR 1958 (continued)**

<i>Member States</i>	<i>Scale recommended for 1958</i>	<i>Present scale</i>	<i>Member States</i>	<i>Scale recommended for 1958</i>	<i>Present scale</i>
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic .....	0.47	0.48	Luxembourg .....	0.06	0.06
Cambodia .....	0.04	0.04	Malaya, Federation of.....	0.22	—
Canada .....	3.09	3.15	Mexico .....	0.68	0.70
Ceylon .....	0.11	0.11	Morocco .....	0.12	—
Chile .....	0.29	0.30	Nepal .....	0.04	0.04
China .....	5.01	5.14	Netherlands .....	1.12	1.15
Colombia .....	0.36	0.37	New Zealand .....	0.42	0.43
Costa Rica .....	0.04	0.04	Nicaragua .....	0.04	0.04
Cuba .....	0.26	0.27	Norway .....	0.48	0.49
Czechoslovakia .....	0.82	0.84	Pakistan .....	0.54	0.55
Denmark .....	0.64	0.66	Panama .....	0.05	0.05
Dominican Republic .....	0.05	0.05	Paraguay .....	0.04	0.04
Ecuador .....	0.05	0.05	Peru .....	0.15	0.15
Egypt .....	0.35	0.36	Philippines .....	0.40	0.41
El Salvador .....	0.06	0.06	Poland .....	1.52	1.56
Ethiopia .....	0.11	0.11	Portugal .....	0.24	0.25
Finland .....	0.36	0.37	Romania .....	0.49	0.50
France .....	5.56	5.70	Saudi Arabia .....	0.07	0.07
Ghana .....	0.07	—	Spain .....	1.11	1.14
Greece .....	0.19	0.20	Sudan .....	0.11	—
Guatemala .....	0.07	0.07	Sweden .....	1.43	1.46
Haiti .....	0.04	0.04	Syria .....	0.08	0.08
Honduras .....	0.04	0.04	Thailand .....	0.16	0.16
Hungary .....	0.39	0.46	Tunisia .....	0.05	—
Iceland .....	0.04	0.04	Turkey .....	0.61	0.63
India .....	2.90	2.97	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic .....	1.80	1.85
Indonesia .....	0.50	0.51	Union of South Africa.....	0.67	0.71
Iran .....	0.26	0.27	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics .....	13.62	13.96
Iraq .....	0.12	0.12	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	7.62	7.81
Ireland .....	0.18	0.19	United States of America.....	32.51	33.33
Israel .....	0.16	0.16	Uruguay .....	0.16	0.16
Italy .....	2.03	2.08	Venezuela .....	0.42	0.43
Japan .....	1.92	—	Yemen .....	0.04	0.04
Jordan .....	0.04	0.04	Yugoslavia .....	0.35	0.36
Laos .....	0.04	0.04			
Lebanon .....	0.05	0.05			
Liberia .....	0.04	0.04			
Libya .....	0.04	0.04			
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW MEMBER STATES FOR THE YEARS 1956 AND 1957**

14. The dates on which the new Members were admitted are:

<i>States</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>
Morocco .....	12 November 1956
Sudan .....	12 November 1956
Tunisia .....	12 November 1956
Japan .....	18 December 1956
Ghana .....	8 March 1957
Malaya, Federation of.....	17 September 1957

15. In accordance with resolution 1137 (XII), the percentage contributions for Japan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia for 1956 and 1957, and for Ghana and the Federation of Malaya for 1957, are to constitute miscellaneous income of the United Nations. The effect of treating these contributions as miscellaneous income will be that all Member States, including the new Members, will receive a proportionate share of this surplus income.

16. The rates of contributions which the Committee is recommending for 1957 for the States admitted to membership in the United Nations in 1956 have been calculated on the same basis as those for all other States which were assessed in the 1957 scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly. These rates are therefore in some cases slightly higher than after

their adjustment for inclusion in the 1958 scale (see para. 13). The rates to be applied to the United Nations budget for 1957, in respect of these States, are as follows:

<i>States</i>	<i>Percentage rates</i>
Morocco .....	0.12
Sudan .....	0.11
Tunisia .....	0.05
Japan .....	1.97

**ASSESSMENT OF NEW MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR OF ADMISSION**

17. The General Assembly has decided (resolution 69 (I)) that new Members should be required to contribute to the annual budget of the year in which they are first admitted at least one-third of their percentage assessment. Some of the contributions paid by new Members are as listed in paragraph 19 of the report of the Committee on Contributions submitted at the eleventh session of the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup> In respect of the sixteen States admitted to membership in the United Nations on 14 December 1955, the Assembly decided that the prescribed minimum of one-third

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/3121).*

should be reduced to one-ninth, mainly on the grounds that they had occasion to participate in the tenth session of the Assembly for a few days only.

State	Date of admission
Morocco .....	12 November 1956
Sudan .....	12 November 1956
Tunisia .....	12 November 1956
Japan .....	18 December 1956
Ghana .....	8 March 1957
Malaya, Federation of...	17 September 1957

19. Japan participated in certain United Nations activities before becoming a Member and was required, under General Assembly resolution 970 (X), to contribute at the rate of 2.15 per cent towards the 1956, 1957 and 1958 expenses of the International Court of Justice, of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and of the international control of narcotic

18. In respect of the new Members now under consideration, the applicable proportions in the light of resolution 69 (I) would appear to be as follows:

Rates to be applied to the budget for the year of admission
One-third of the 1957 percentage assessment
One-third of the 1957 percentage assessment
One-third of the 1957 percentage assessment
One-third of the 1957 percentage assessment
Two-thirds of the 1958 percentage assessment
One-third of the 1958 percentage assessment

drugs. Since Japan was admitted to membership in the United Nations in 1956, the Committee recommends that the amounts that Japan is required to contribute for that year under the above resolution be reduced by one-third. For 1957 and thereafter, Japan's contribution to these activities will be covered by its annual contribution to the United Nations budget.

## V. OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

### ASSESSMENT OF NON-MEMBER STATES

20. At its session in August 1955, the Committee established percentage rates at which States not Members of the United Nations but which participate in certain of its activities should be called upon to contribute towards the expenses of such activities. These rates were approved by the General Assembly for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 (resolution 970 (X)).

21. The rates were arrived at in accordance with the same principles as are applied to the assessments for Member States. The same allowance for low *per capita* income was used, and the rates were computed by relating the "taxable" income of each country to the combined "taxable" incomes of those Member States that are not subject to "ceiling", "floor" and "*per capita* ceiling" provisions.

22. Since the increase in membership of the United Nations from sixty to eighty-two Members, the reduction in the maximum contribution of the largest contributor, and the full implementation of the *per capita* ceiling principle all affect the rates of contribution of non-member States, the Committee decided at its present session to adjust these rates in relation to the 1958 scale of assessments.

23. As a result of this adjustment, the Committee recommends that, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4 of resolution 970 (X), the percentage rates at which non-member States should be called upon to contribute towards the 1958 expenses of the activities in which they participate should be as follows:

States	Percentage rates of contributions for 1958
Germany, Federal Republic of.....	4.15
Korea, Republic of.....	0.13
Liechtenstein .....	0.04
Monaco .....	0.04
San Marino .....	0.04
Switzerland .....	0.98
Viet-Nam .....	0.16

In arriving at the above rate for Switzerland, the Committee has taken into account the consideration that

Switzerland, if included in the United Nations scale of assessments, would be affected by the *per capita* ceiling principle, and the rate has been reduced to achieve *per capita* parity with the highest contributor in the United Nations scale.

24. The United Nations activities to the expenses of which the various non-member States are required to contribute, on the basis of the rates recommended in paragraph 23 above, are:

#### *The International Court of Justice*

Liechtenstein                      San Marino                      Switzerland

#### *International control of narcotic drugs*

Germany, Federal Republic of                      San Marino  
Liechtenstein                      Switzerland  
Monaco                      Viet-Nam

#### *Economic Commission for Europe*

Germany, Federal Republic of

#### *Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*

Korea, Republic of                      Viet-Nam

### INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR DECLARATIONS OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSONS

25. General Assembly resolution 970 (X), in paragraph 7, provides: "That, if any non-member States should become Parties to the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons before the next review of the assessments, they should be assessed retroactively from the date of their accession to the Convention in respect of all expenses of the International Bureau for Declarations of Death." The Federal Republic of Germany acceded to the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons on 30 January 1956, and the Committee recommends that the Federal Republic be called upon to contribute towards the expenses of the International Bureau for Declarations of Death for the years 1956 and 1957 at the rate of 4.61 per cent, and for 1958 at the adjusted rate of 4.15 per cent given in paragraph 23 above.

## SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

26. The General Assembly on 24 November 1949 (resolution 311 B (IV)) authorized the Committee "to recommend or advise on the scale of contributions for a specialized agency if requested by that agency to do so".

27. Under that resolution requests have been received from specialized agencies for theoretical probable percentages in the United Nations scales for States that are members of the agencies but not Members of the United Nations. The Committee proposes to recommend that the rates set out in paragraph 23 above be used for that purpose.

28. In accordance with the arrangements made by the Committee in pursuance of the resolution referred to in paragraph 26, statistical data and other information, including the formula used for making allowance in the United Nations scale for low *per capita* income, was supplied to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at their request.

## STATUS OF COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

29. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee is to "consider and report to the General Assembly on the action to be taken if Members fall into default with their contributions".

30. The Committee took note of a report by the Secretary-General on the status of collection of contributions as at 30 September 1957, showing that 99.96 per cent had been collected for the year 1955, 94.77 per cent for 1956 and 69.93 per cent for 1957. No contributions were outstanding prior to 1955.

31. The Committee observed that, while some countries were in arrears, no Member State was in default under Article 19 of the Charter, which provides that "a Member . . . shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years".

32. The Committee viewed with some concern, however, the shortfall in payment of contributions due,

which at the end of September amounted to a total of approximately \$17.7 million, and would recommend that the General Assembly urge Member States to fulfil their financial obligations promptly.

## COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CURRENCIES OTHER THAN UNITED STATES DOLLARS

33. The General Assembly, on 15 December 1955 (resolution 970 (X)), authorized the Secretary-General to accept, at his discretion and after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, a portion of the contributions of Member States for the financial years 1956, 1957 and 1958 in currencies other than United States dollars.

34. Under this authority, the Secretary-General has found it possible to accept from Member States (other than the United States of America), in currencies other than United States dollars, a total of 33.75 per cent of Members' contributions payable in 1957, namely 18.30 per cent in Swiss francs, 9 per cent in pounds sterling, and 6.45 per cent in a group of six currencies. In establishing these percentages for 1957, allowance was made for the 1956 contributions of the sixteen States admitted to membership at the tenth session of the General Assembly. The proportion of contributions acceptable in non-United States currencies for 1956 totalled 34.45 per cent, of which 17.62 per cent was in Swiss francs, 10.50 per cent in pounds sterling and 6.30 per cent in a group of currencies.

35. The authorization given to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly also covers the year 1958, and the Committee would recommend that the arrangements for that year for payment in currencies other than United States dollars be again made as comprehensive as practicable, and it also recommends that these arrangements be continued thereafter.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

36. In view of the fact that the next review of the scale of assessments will be comprehensive in nature, the Committee urges all Member States to submit national income and related statistics so that the Committee will have an improved basis for determining relative capacity to pay.