



Twelfth session
Agenda item 44

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE
UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jaime de PINIES (Spain)

1. The Fifth Committee at its 631st meeting held on 29 November 1957, considered the item "Scale of Assessments for the Apportionment of the Expenses of the United Nations: Report of the Committee on Contributions." The Committee had before it the report^{1/} of the Committee on Contributions, a draft text (A/C.5/L.482) prepared by the Secretariat embodying in resolution form the recommendations made in that report, a proposal (A/C.5/L.481) by Japan on its assessment for the year of admission and a statement (A/C.5/732) by the Secretary-General on the status of advances to the Working Capital Fund and contributions to the United Nations budget for the financial years 1955, 1956 and 1957 as at 25 November 1957.
2. The Chairman of the Committee on Contributions stated that the task of the Committee arising out of General Assembly resolution 1137 (XII)^{2/} was limited to the assessment of the six new Member States - Ghana, Japan, the Federation of Malaya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia - and to consequential adjustments in the existing scale of assessments. In determining the percentage rates of contributions for the new Members, the Committee had used as a basis national income estimates for the years 1952-1954, which was the basis for the assessment

1/ Official records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No.10 (A/3714).

2/ Official records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Agenda item 44, document A/3698.

of all other Member States. In accordance with the General Assembly directive the additional contributions for the new Members should be applied towards a pro rata reduction for all Members except those at the minimum assessment of 0.04 per cent. In the United Nations scale of two-decimals, the literal application of this directive was not possible as the pro rata distribution of the additional contributions would not affect the assessments of the Member States whose percentage contribution was 0.16 or below. The Committee had, however, rejected the idea of changing to a three-decimal scale since the adjustments involved would be so small that they could not be determined with any measure of certainty.

3. Under rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee on Contributions had considered the representations and appeals made by Member States for changes in assessments. For the reasons given in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its report, the Committee had reached the conclusion that it would not be in the interest of equity to make ad hoc adjustments in individual assessments at the present time. An exception was Hungary, for which the Committee had unanimously agreed that a reduction for 1958 was justified. The appeals would be considered again next year in the context of an over-all review of the scale and the Committee would then be in a position to evaluate relative changes in capacity to pay and any special changes would be reflected in the scale to be recommended for the years 1959-1961. The Chairman explained that the basis for the next general review of the scale would be the national income estimates for the three years 1955-1957.

4. General Assembly resolution 69 (I) provided that for the year of admission new Members should contribute at least one-third of their percentage assessment to the annual budget of that year. The Assembly had departed from that rule in several instances. For the six new Members, the Committee on Contributions had made no recommendation, but had suggested the proportions that would be applicable, in the light of resolution 69 (I). It was for the Fifth Committee to decide the percentage assessments to be applied.

Contributions by New Members for the Year of Admission

5. The representative of Japan recalled that at its eleventh session, the General Assembly had decided that the sixteen States admitted to membership on 14 December 1955 should pay one-ninth of their assessment for the full year.

As Japan had been admitted on 18 December 1956, it should be entitled to a similar benefit in respect of that year. The expenses for that part of the eleventh session of the General Assembly which fell in 1957 would be fully covered by the 1957 budget to which his Government would pay a full year's contribution. He proposed that the 1956 assessment for Japan should be one-ninth of its percentage assessment for 1957, and as a consequence the amount of Japan's contribution under resolution 970 (X), paragraph 4, should be reduced by one-ninth and not by one-third (A/C.5/L.481).

6. The representative of the United States of America, supporting the Japanese proposal, believed also that it would be difficult to distinguish the case of Japan from that of the other Member States admitted in 1956, namely Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, and accordingly proposed that a one-ninth assessment should also be applied to those States. The representative of the Federation of Malaya, referring to the financial difficulties of his country, proposed that its assessment for the first year of membership should similarly be reduced from the suggested rate of one-third to one-sixth. The representative of Haiti proposed that for Ghana, the suggested rate of two-thirds should be reduced to one-third.

7. The Fifth Committee favoured the proposed reductions in the rates of contribution of the new Members for the year of admission in view of the special circumstances pertaining in each case. Much emphasis was given during the discussion to the case of the newly independent countries for special consideration with regard to their future scales of assessment. Several delegations, however, expressed the view that, if exceptions were repeatedly made to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 69 (I), in which a one-third rule was stipulated, that rule might require review and possible revision; it was hoped that the Committee would have an opportunity to study the question and lay down definite rules before any new Members were admitted. Meanwhile, they believed that exceptions made for special reasons, which appeared justifiable in individual cases, should not be considered as precedents, as a State in attaining membership in the United Nations would, together with other Members, benefit from the available services, facilities and permanent installations of the Organization, which had been built up only through a significant total expenditure.

Pro rata distribution of additional percentage contributions

8. During the discussion several delegations expressed regret that countries whose assessments were below 0.16 per cent had received no benefit from the

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pro rata sharing of the benefits of an increase in membership. The representative of Ceylon pointed out that this was the second occasion when the smaller contributors had failed to benefit from the admission of new Members. As the effect was cumulative, it was hoped that the Committee on Contributions would give special consideration to the countries which for the second time had received no reduction in their assessments. In this connexion, the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions stated that his Committee examined carefully the level of contributions of all Members, but it would pay special attention to the pertinent matter which had been raised by the representative of Ceylon.

In connexion with the assessment of the smaller contributors, the point was also raised that the Committee on Contributions should consider the possibility of a reduction in the minimum assessment of .04 per cent, principally on the grounds that, when the method of calculating the scale had originally been established, the budget of the Organization had been much lower than it was now and that the subsequent increase in expenditure had created serious difficulties for the smaller contributors whose economy had not developed in a similar proportion.

The 1958 scale

9. Tributes were paid by several delegations to the way in which the Committee on Contributions had carried out its task of establishing a scale of assessments in the light of the General Assembly's directives (resolution 1137 (XII)) and the scale recommended for 1958 was generally acceptable to Member States.

Representations and appeals for changes in assessments

10. In the course of discussion of the present item the following delegations made representations on their individual assessments, their views being summarized in the official record of the 631st meeting of the Fifth Committee: El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Spain, Sudan, Union of South Africa, Uruguay.

The Chairman of the Committee on Contributions stated that the Committee would study closely the record of the Fifth Committee's discussion and would give thorough consideration to all the points raised.

Decisions of the Committee

11. The proposals noted in paragraph 6 above would amend as follows the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.582) embodying the recommendations and suggestions of the Committee on Contributions.

(a) The United States proposal would replace the words "one-third" in paragraph 4 by "one-ninth".

(b) The Haitian proposal would replace the words "two-thirds of 0.07 per cent" in paragraph 5 by "one-third of 0.07 per cent" and,

(c) The Malayan proposal would replace the words "one-third of 0.22 per cent" in paragraph 5 by "one-sixth of 0.22 per cent".

12. The United States proposal was adopted by 62 votes to none, with one abstention. This decision entailed a consequential amendment to paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. As a result it was unnecessary for the Committee to vote on the Japanese proposal (A/C.5/L.481). The Haitian proposal was adopted by 62 votes to none, with one abstention. The Malayan proposal was adopted by 62 votes to none, with one abstention. The Committee voted on the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.482), as amended, with the following results:

Paragraphs 1 to 5, as amended, were adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 6 was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

Paragraph 7, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 8 was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 were adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

In explanation of vote the representative of Sudan stated that he had accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions, as amended, but expressed the specific wish that the Sudan's contribution should be reduced when the scale of assessments came up for revision in 1958.

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

13. In accordance with the above decision, the Fifth Committee recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolution:

Scale of Assessments for the Appointment of the Expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly

Resolves

1. That the scale of assessments for Members' contributions to the United Nations budget for the financial year 1958 shall be as follows:

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<u>Member States</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Afghanistan	0.06
Albania	0.04
Argentina	1.14
Australia	1.61
Austria	0.35
Belgium	1.24
Bolivia	0.05
Brazil	1.06
Bulgaria	0.14
Burma	0.10
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	0.47
Cambodia	0.04
Canada	3.09
Ceylon	0.11
Chile	0.29
China	5.01
Colombia	0.36
Costa Rica	0.04
Cuba	0.26
Czechoslovakia	0.82
Denmark	0.64
Dominican Republic	0.05
Ecuador	0.05
Egypt	0.35
El Salvador	0.06
Ethiopia	0.11
Finland	0.36
France	5.56
Ghana	0.07
Greece	0.19
Guatemala	0.07
Haiti	0.04
Honduras	0.04
Hungary	0.39
Iceland	0.04
India	2.90
Indonesia	0.50
Iran	0.26
Iraq	0.12
Ireland	0.18
Israel	0.16
Italy	2.03
Japan	1.92
Jordan	0.04
Laos	0.04
Lebanon	0.05
Liberia	0.04
Libya	0.04

<u>Member States</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Luxembourg	0.06
Malaya, Federation of	0.22
Mexico	0.68
Morocco	0.12
Nepal	0.04
Netherlands	1.12
New Zealand	0.42
Nicaragua	0.04
Norway	0.48
Pakistan	0.54
Panama	0.05
Paraguay	0.04
Peru	0.15
Philippines	0.40
Poland	1.52
Portugal	0.24
Romania	0.49
Saudi Arabia	0.07
Spain	1.11
Sudan	0.11
Sweden	1.43
Syria	0.08
Thailand	0.16
Tunisia	0.05
Turkey	0.61
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1.80
Union of South Africa	0.67
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	13.62
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7.62
United States of America	32.51
Uruguay	0.16
Venezuela	0.42
Yemen	0.04
Yugoslavia	0.35
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2. That the scale of assessments given in paragraph 1 shall be reviewed by the Committee on Contributions in 1958, when a report shall be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly at its thirteenth session;

3. That for the year 1957 the rates of contributions for Japan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia shall be as follows:

<u>States</u>	<u>Percentage Rates</u>
Japan	1.97
Morocco	0.12
Sudan	0.11
Tunisia	0.05

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These rates shall be in addition to the 1957 scale of assessments of 100 per cent contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 1087 (XI), and shall be applied to the budget for 1957;

4. That in view of the fact that Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia became Members of the United Nations on 12 November 1956, and Japan on 18 December 1956, these States shall contribute for the year of admission to membership an amount equal to one-ninth of their percentage assessment for 1957 applied to the budget for 1956;

5. That Ghana and the Federation of Malaya, which States became Members of the United Nations on 8 March and 17 September 1957 respectively, shall contribute for the year of admission to membership amounts equal to:

For Ghana	One-third of 0.07 per cent
For the Federation of Malaya	One-sixth of 0.22 per cent

applied to the budget for 1957;

6. That, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 970 (X), paragraph 4, States which are not Members of the United Nations but which participate in certain of its activities shall be called upon to contribute towards the 1958 expenses of such activities on the basis of the following rates:

<u>States</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
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

The following countries being called upon to contribute:

To the International Court of Justice: Liechtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland.

To the International Control of Narcotic Drugs: Federal Republic of Germany, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland and Viet-Nam.

To the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East: Republic of Korea and Viet-Nam.

To the Economic Commission for Europe: Federal Republic of Germany.

7. That Japan, which participated in certain United Nations activities before admission to membership, shall not be required to contribute separately towards the annual expenses of such activities for the year 1957 onwards, and that for the year 1956 the amounts that Japan is called upon to contribute under resolution 970 (X), paragraph 4, shall be reduced by one-ninth;

8. That the Federal Republic of Germany, which acceded to the Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons on 30 January 1956, shall be called upon to contribute towards the expenses of the International Bureau for Declaration of Death for the years 1956 and 1957 at the rate of 4.61 per cent pursuant to resolution 970 (X), paragraph 4, and for 1958 at the rate of 4.15 per cent, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the present resolution;

9. Urges Member States, within the limits of their constitutional processes, to seek appropriate measures which would ensure the payment of their annual contributions to the United Nations as early as possible in the financial year;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, under the authority given to him by resolution 970 (X), paragraph 3, to continue in 1958 to make arrangements for payment of part of Members' contributions in currencies other than United States dollars as comprehensive as practicable.
