



Bangladesh

Statement by H. E. Dr. Abul Kalam Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, NY in the Second Resumed Session of the 5th Committee on Administrative and Budgetary aspects of financing UNPKOs: Implementation of GA Resolution 67/261: -TCC Rates of Reimbursement

New York, 09 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking you for your able leadership in guiding the work of the Fifth Committee. We hope that your stewardship will guide the process of this session to a successful conclusion.

I especially thank USG Herve Ladsous & USG Ameera Huq for their introduction of the SG's report. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I, however, would like to touch upon the following points on my national capacity:

Mr. Chairman,

To uphold its constitutional commitment of pursuing peaceful settlement of international disputes and respect for international law, and in fulfilling its UN Charter mandated responsibility, Bangladesh has been participating in UN peacekeeping operations. In our humble capacity, Bangladesh has contributed over 120,000 of our peacekeepers in different missions across the continents. At present, around eight thousand peacekeepers are working in the field. In doing so, our 112 valiant peacekeepers have made their supreme sacrifice while performing their duties under the Blue Helmet. Fellow troop contributing countries have also made similar sacrifices for the cause of maintaining international peace and security. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to them. I also convey our full appreciation to the work of those who are risking their lives in various peacekeeping missions under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

As a major troop contributing country, we attach great importance to the consideration of policy matters related to the administrative and budgetary

aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations with particular emphasis on TCC Rates of Reimbursement.

The troop cost what was USD 988 in 1991 and its was increased after almost 11 years to USD 1028 in 2002. And it continued being so until 01 April 2013 except making supplemental payments in previous two years. While the wages of UN officials increased by over 57% during the period, unfortunately, reimbursement rate for our price, the price of UN operations the 'Blue Helmets' did not increase during the time. The situation placed a difficult financial burden on troop contributing countries and poses a serious threat to the sustainability of TCCs participation in peacekeeping operations. It comes to us as a sign of discrimination when we see that the salaries and benefits of others working for this organization are reviewed regularly using some comparators, while troop costs and other reimbursements relating to peacekeepers, what is now only 44% of total peacekeeping budget, sadly remain unattended for decades.

Mr. Chairman,

After prolonged negotiations, a Senior Advisory Group (SAG) of which I was privileged to be a member furnished some recommendation in order to develop a credible and equitable reimbursement system. The SAG recommended as a interim measure 6.75% increment subject to mandatory carrying out of a well-designed survey to collect accurate information about the essential and additional costs incurred in deploying uniformed personnel to the United Nations peacekeeping operations so that the decision on the rate of reimbursement has a clear empirical basis. Now, having the result of survey in hand, it's time to translate this result into action so as to reduce the deficit between current reimbursement rate and the financial costs of TCCs; it's time to honor the consensus reached after intense negotiation at Senior Advisory Group and also time to honor the GA Resolution 67/261.

Mr. Chairman,

We therefore hope, during this second resumed session, the General Assembly approves a just increase in troop costs in light of survey conducted in 10 sample countries and put in place an effective, transparent and equitable system for the regular review of the rate of personnel reimbursement to contributing countries.

I express my support and commitment to constructive engagement of our delegation in the negotiation process. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
