



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 689-7215, FAX (212) 689-9073

**STATEMENT BY SR. JORGE CUMBERBATCH, I SECRETARY, DELEGATE OF
CUBA TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.
MAIN PART OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
AGENDA ITEM 136: "IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS".
NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, my delegation wishes to thank Mrs. Angela Kane, Under-Secretary-General for Management, for the information provided last 11 October in relation to the financial situation of the Organization, as well as for the update on the topic given this morning.

Allow us to congratulate Mrs. Maria Eugenia Casar on her appointment as head of the Office of the Comptroller of the Organization.

Likewise, we endorse the statements by the distinguished delegation of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the distinguished delegation of Chile on behalf of the Rio Group. Nonetheless, we would like to express some views in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

We are explained that the financial situation of the Organization has improved in comparison with previous periods.

However, it is significant that the highest debts to the United Nations' budgets continue to be owed by one Member State. It is, by the way, the same State benefitting from the main distortion in the scale of assessment methodology.

We reiterate the call to comply with the financial obligations to the Organization, in a timely and fully manner and without conditions. We are aware of the difficulties faced by many members of the Organization, including my country, when contributing to its budgets.

In the context of the financial crisis of recent years, we should stress however that most of us who have been affected by the crisis and whose capacity to contribute to the United Nations' budgets has been damaged, are not responsible for but victims of the phenomenon.

Moreover, it is particularly striking that those who use the crisis created by the mess of their financial systems, as a pretext to promote arbitrary reductions in the regular budget, curiously obviate in silence the fact that the extrabudgetary resources included in the Organization's regular budget account for 59.1% of all resources to be allocated to the Secretariat in the 2010-2011 biennium. According to the documentation we have received so far, in the 2012-2013 biennium, such percentage will increase to 61.97%.

Our delegation does not mean to question the good intentions of some donors when contributing to the just causes of the United Nations. However, we have witnessed painful impositions on the agendas of the Secretariat's entities, through important extrabudgetary resources.

The current session is developing in the shadow of the deliberations on the regular budget to be held as of next week, and on the reductions that, as we feared, are sought to be made in the resources destined to implement the mandates of the Development Pillar.

Additionally, while the warmongering of the responsibility to protect daily spends hundreds of millions of dollars in bombing civilians, financial burdens will be transferred, through special political missions, to this Organization's members, who refuse to accept interventionist doctrines implemented by the most powerful.

Usually, and if we take a look at the international panorama, in times of crisis, questions relating to social services and the promotion of sustainable development for the poorest strata of society are precisely the ones affected by budget cuts.

The existing situation leads us to reiterate our conviction that our Organization's Development Pillar must be strengthened and reinforced, if we want to maintain peace and security in today's world. My delegation will expand on these sensitive matters during the general debate on the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the obstacles it faces as a developing country and the consequences of the crisis, Cuba remains firmly committed to multilateralism, which is evidenced not only by its active participation in the United Nations, but also by its compliance with its financial obligations.

Additionally, Cuba has suffered, for over 50 years, the consequences of the unjust economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the US Government. In spite of that, our country has kept its obligations to the Regular Budget and the Capital Master Plan up-to-date, made all its 2011 contributions to the International Tribunals, and makes huge efforts to pay, in due time, its peacekeeping assessments.

For Cuba, the impossibility to use the US dollar in its international transactions, including the payments to international agencies, due to the criminal blockade we suffer,

makes our transfers be constantly subject to the market's currency fluctuation, which has a negative impact on our capacity to pay. In this context, it is also important to take into account the difficulties faced by Cuba to make its contributions to the United Nations, since our transactions have to be made through a third country because of the blockade's regulations.

In numerous occasions, Cuban transactions to international agencies have been frozen, including those nominated in Euros. Also, the US Government does not cease in its efforts to hinder UN cooperation with our country.

A shameful example took place in January 2011, when the United States Government froze US\$ 4,207,000 in funds that had been assigned by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to implement cooperation projects with Cuba to fight the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and tuberculosis.

This deliberate act to impede the implementation of three projects which are known to have a significant impact on segments of the population has no legitimacy or foundation other than the resolve to continue tightening the embargo policy in one of the most vulnerable sectors for the Cuban Government and population.

Similarly, the Swiss banks UBS and Credit Suisse, in which most of the international organizations with headquarters in Geneva hold their accounts, have refused, since the end of 2006, to receive direct bank transfers from Cuban institutions, such as the Cuban Industrial Property Office (OCPI) and other legal entities with headquarters in Cuba, for payments made to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), pursuant to

Thank you.



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE CUBA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 689-7215, FAX (212) 689-9073

INTERVENCIÓN DE SR JORGE CUMBERB

dañada nuestra capacidad de pagos a los presupuestos de las Naciones Unidas, no somos los responsables, sino víctimas del fenómeno.

Por otra parte, llama poderosamente la atención que quienes acuden a la crisis que el desorden de sus sistemas financieros creó, como razón fundamental para promover arbitrarios recortes en el presupuesto ordinario, obvian con curioso silencio el hecho de que los recursos extrapresupuestarios contabilizados en el presupuesto ordinario de la organización constituyen el 59.1% de todos los recursos que se pondrán a disposición de la Secretaría en el bienio 2010-2011. Para el próximo bienio 2012-2013 tal porcentaje –según la documentación que hemos recibido hasta el momento–

Adicionalmente, Cuba sufre desde hace más de 50 años las consecuencias del injusto bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos; a pesar de lo cual, nuestro país mantiene al día sus obligaciones con el Presupuesto Ordinario y el Plan Maestro de Mejoras de Infraestructura, cubrió la totalidad de sus cuotas correspondientes al año 2011 de los Tribunales Internacionales y realiza grandes esfuerzos por mantenerse al día en los pagos a las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz.

Para Cuba, la imposibilidad de utilizar el dólar estado

Asamblea General ya se ha manifestado en 19 ocasiones para que se ponga fin al bloqueo contra Cuba, y aún la voz de los pueblos no es escuchada.

Sr. Presidente,

Deseamos agradecer la cooperación que hemos recibido de la Oficina de Cuotas en el seguimiento a los estados de nuestras contribuciones a los presupuestos de la Organización, en particular, a través de la herramienta informática puesta a nuestra disposición.

Para finalizar, quisiéramos insistir en la disposición y voluntad política de Cuba de honrar sus obligaciones financieras para con las Naciones Unidas.

Muchas gracias.