

Financial situation of the United Nations

Statement by Angela Kane, Under-Secretary-General for Management

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12 May 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman and, through you, let me also thank the members of the Fifth Committee for giving me this opportunity to brief you on the current financial situation of the United Nations.

In doing so, I shall focus on four main financial 678208(583.53D36(e)3.157e9431(f)2.b417(n)-0.95t7

by the Security Council for each mission, they are issued for different periods throughout the year. All of these factors complicate a comparison between the financial situation of peacekeeping operations and those of the regular budget and the tribunals.

The total amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations at the end of 2010 was just under \$2.5 billion, reflecting an increase of \$608 million from the amount of \$1.85 billion outstanding at the end of 2009 (see **Chart 11**). However, this increase in outstanding was significantly lower than the increase of over \$3.9 billion in assessments during 2010, due to the nearly \$2.3 billion higher payments received during 2010 compared to 2009. The breakdown of the outstanding assessments of nearly \$2.5 billion at the end of 2010 is shown in **Chart 12**; approximately eighty-three per cent was owed by nine Member States.

Due to the unpredictable amount and timing of peacekeeping assessments throughout the year, it can be more difficult for Member States to keep fully current with assessments. Let me therefore pay special thanks to the 27 Member States listed in **Chart 13** that had paid all peacekeeping assessments that were due and payable on 31 December 2010. They were Armenia, Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Cyprus, Eritrea, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

Although cash available for peacekeeping at the end of 2010 was over \$3.2 billion, this was divided between the separate accounts maintained for each peacekeeping operation and there are restrictions on the use of this cash. In its resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations, the General Assembly has specified that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing from other active peacekeeping missions. In addition, the terms of reference of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund restrict its use only to new operations and expansions of existing operations. **Chart 14** shows the breakdown of peacekeeping cash at the end of 2010 between active missions with \$2,674 million, closed missions with \$414 million, and the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund with \$141 million.

The financial position of peacekeeping operations at 10 May 2011 shows improvement (see **Chart 15**). New assessments of over \$1.6 billion had been issued by that date. Against this, contributions of over \$2.4 billion were received, reducing the amount outstanding from over \$2.4 billion to about \$1.7 billion. Out of the total owed for peacekeeping operations as of 10 May 2011, approximately 80 per cent relates to seven Member States (See **Chart 16**).

The current situation reflects an improvement from one year ago, and from the end 2010 situation. In this context, let me pay special tribute to the 31 Member States that had paid all peacekeeping assessments that were due and payable on 10 May 2011 (see **Chart 17**). These were Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Democratic People's Rep. of Korea, Denmark, Estonia,

International tribunals

The financial position of the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia improved slightly in 2010. As indicated in **Chart 22**, outstanding assessments for the two tribunals decreased from \$37 million at the end of 2009 to \$27 million at the end of 2010.

The breakdown of the \$27 million owed at end 2010 is shown in **Chart 23**. As indicated therein, the outstanding amounts for the tribunals are also highly concentrated, with three Member States accounting for nearly 63 per cent of the total.

The number of Member States paying their assessed contributions for both international tribunals in full by the end of 2010 was 98, seven less from the level at the end of 2009. On behalf of the Secretary-General, let me express our sincere thanks to those 98 Member States listed in **Chart 24** and urge other Member States to follow their example.

The tribunals' financial situation has remained largely unchanged in 2011 (see **Chart 25**). 61 Member States had paid their assessed contributions to both tribunals in full by 10 May 2011 matching the levels attained by 10 May 2010. Further, payments received after 10 May 2011 result in the addition of two Member States (United Kingdom and Syrian Arab Republic) to the list of Member States which have paid in full tribunal assessments as of now. Unpaid assessments at 10 May 2011 amount to \$133 million, reflecting a higher level than the unpaid amount of \$63 million at 10 May 2010. Nevertheless, based on current projections, the tribunals should end 2011 with positive cash balances (see **Chart 26**). Once again, however, the actual outcome depends on Member States continuing to honour their financial obligations to the tribunals.

Capital Master Plan

The total budget for the Capital Master Plan project of \$1.9 billion was approved by the General Assembly on 22 December 2006 (**See Chart 27**). Two options were

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In addition to the cost of the project, the General Assembly approved the