

Fifth Committee  
8 October 2007

Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans contained in document A/62/70.

In its resolution 56/243 A, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, recognized that multi-year payment plans could be helpful in allowing Member States to demonstrate their commitment to pay their arrears, thereby facilitating consideration of applications for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter by the Committee on Contributions. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose guidelines for such payment plans through the Committee on Contributions.

Having reviewed the Secretary-General's report, contained in document A/57/65, the Committee on Contributions agreed on a number of conclusions and recommendations. These are contained in paragraphs 17 to 23 of the Committee's report on its sixty-second session in 2002 (A/57/11). In its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed these conclusions and recommendations on multi-year payment plans. In its resolutions 58/1 B, 59/1 B, 60/237 and 61/237, the Assembly subsequently reaffirmed that endorsement.

In its report, the Committee agreed that Member States should be encouraged to submit multi-year payment plans, which constitute a useful tool for them in reducing their unpaid assessed contributions and a way for them to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations. In addition, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide information on the submission of multi-year payment plans to the Assembly and to submit an annual report on the status of Member States' payment plans as at 31 December each year, both through the Committee on Contributions.

The report of the Secretary-General responds to these requests. The report provides information on the status of the five existing payment plans at 31 December 2006. These are the payment plans which had been submitted earlier by Georgia in 2003 (its fourth), Liberia in 2006 (its second), the Niger in 2004 (its first), Sao Tome and Principe in 2002 (its first) and Tajikistan in 2000 (its first).

Of these five, the payments by Tajikistan again significantly exceeded the amounts laid down in its plan. Payments by Georgia also exceeded its planned payments, while the Niger and Sao Tome and Principe paid less than the amounts foreseen in their respective payment plans. Liberia had paid the first two instalments of its payment plan.

As indicated by the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, the report of his Committee also provides information on subsequent developments with regard to multi-year payment plans. As noted by the Chairman in his report to the Committee, Georgia and the Niger have both made full payments in 2007 under their respective plans, in advance of the deadline dates specified in the report, and no longer fall under the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter. The Committee recognized the considerable efforts made by these Member States to honour their commitments under their plans.

The report of the Committee on Contributions contains updated information as at 30 June 2007 on the status of implementation of the three remaining payment plans submitted by Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan. Liberia has paid another instalment under its payment plan since the issuance of the report.