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SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1978

Revised guiding principles for the assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget

Note by the Director General

1. At its third session the General Conference established the Guiding Principles for the Assessment of Members' Contributions[1]. Included in these principles is the guidance that "The per capita contribution of any Member shall not exceed the per capita contribution of the Member which bears the highest assessment". The United Nations General Assembly has decided[2] to abolish the per capita ceiling principle in the formulation and establishment of rates of assessment, commencing with the United Nations scale for the triennium 1977-1979.

2. In adopting its Resolution, the General Assembly noted the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions on the per capita ceiling principle as contained in its report[3]. In examining the question of the per capita ceiling principle, the Committee on Contributions noted that the principle was established in 1948 at a time when the highest assessment was 39.89 per cent. Since that time the highest assessment has periodically decreased to the current level of 25 per cent and there have been significant changes in national economies. The Committee found that it was probable that the rates of assessment of some eight or nine Member States would be affected by the per capita ceiling principle in the 1977-1979 UN scale. The Committee concluded that the per capita ceiling principle could no longer be held to be equitable since a growing number of countries with strong economies and high per capita incomes were called upon to contribute at lower and lower rates in relation to their capacity to pay with the result that a greater burden would of necessity be placed on Member States in the median or low per capita income groups. Accordingly, the Committee on Contributions was unanimous in recommending the abolishment of the per capita ceiling principle in terms of the United Nations scale of assessment commencing with the 1977-1979 triennium.

[1] Resolution GC(III)/RES/50 of 2 October 1959.

[2] See General Assembly Resolution A/RES/3228(XXIX) of 19 November 1974.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth session, Supplement No. 11 (A/9611).

3. A draft resolution designed to take an action similar to the above General Assembly Resolution is presented below for the Conference's consideration.

AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION GC(III)/RES/50

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling its Resolution GC(III)/RES/50 embodying the Guiding Principles for the Assessment of Members' Contributions, and

(b) Considering it desirable to revise the guiding principles which it established by Resolution GC(III)/RES/50,

Approves the abolishment of the per capita ceiling principle as included in operative paragraph (c) of Resolution GC(III)/RES/50.