

# Financial situation of the United Nations

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

Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its second resumed 64<sup>th</sup> session

7 May 2010

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 indicators:

- (a) Assessments issued
- (b) Unpaid assessed contributions
- (c) Available cash resources
- (d) Debt to Member States.

**Chart 1** summarizes the status of these indicators at 31 December 2008 and 2009. The picture that these present is mixed, although there has been some improvement in some areas.

### Regular budget

Let me turn first to the regular budget (see **Chart 2**). Assessments and payments were both higher in 2009 than in 2008, by \$619 million and \$690 million respectively.

Unpaid assessed contributions were lower by \$82.75 million in 2009 than in 2008. Available cash resources were higher by \$1.5 billion in 2009 than in 2008. Debt to Member States was lower by \$1.5 billion in 2009 than in 2008.

Secretary-General, I should like to thank these Member States - which are listed in **Chart 4** - and urge all Member States that have not yet done so to date to pay their assessed



the addition of Croatia and Denmark to the list of Member States which have paid in full peacekeeping assessments as of now.

Based on information currently available, we expect that total cash available in peacekeeping accounts at the end of 2010 will amount to about \$2.9 billion, with approximately \$2.4 billion in the accounts of active missions, \$412 million in the accounts of closed missions and \$141 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (see **Chart 17**). These estimates are based on projected receipts and disbursements and on the proposed retention of cash balances in closed peacekeeping operations.

Of the \$412 million expected to be available in the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations at the end of this year (see **Chart 18**), \$218 million relates to amounts to be paid for outstanding liabilities such as troop and equipment payments. This leaves only \$194 million freely available for possible cross-borrowing for other accounts, including the regular budget, the international tribunals and active peacekeeping operations. Cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations was required in 2009 for four active operations (MINURSO, UNOCI, UNOMIG and UNMIT).

#### Debt to Member States

As indicated in **Chart 19**, the amount owed for Troops and Formed-Police Units and Contingent-Owned Equipment at 31 December 2009 was \$775 million, reflecting only MINURSO, UNOCI, UNOMIG and UNMIT.

### International tribunals

The financial position of the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia worsened in 2009. As indicated in **Chart 22**, outstanding assessments for the two tribunals increased from \$

currently outstanding. In addition, a number of Member States which did not opt for one time payment have nevertheless made advance payments totalling to \$59 million. Cash



