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The Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations



La Mission Permanente du Canada
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STATEMENT OF THE CANADIAN
DELEGATION ON

- ITEM 115: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-89
ITEM 116: PROGRAMME PLANNING
ITEM 41: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
AND
ITEM 43: CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DELIVERED BY ADO VAHER
CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO FIFTH COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 26, 1987

Mr. Chairman,

I would like first of all to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Secretary-General for his personal introduction of the programme budget proposal for the 1988-89 biennium. It is quite obvious that he and his colleagues have put considerable effort over the last year into production of the budget and the array of other documentation relating to the four items under discussion. It now becomes the responsibility of the Fifth Committee to review the budget proposals of the Secretary-General, to adopt a programme budget for the coming biennium and to deal with other issues related to the financial health of the Organization and the effective delivery of its programmes. This year, for a variety of reasons, these traditional tasks are more complex and demanding than ever before.

First, the financial crisis of the U.N. continues and the situation of the Organization is becoming increasingly precarious. Although the high level of overt anxiety among delegations which was a characteristic of the last General Assembly has perhaps not been sustained, the fact is that the overall financial situation of the U.N. has deteriorated dramatically as for the third year in a row the timing and amount of payments to the U.N. regular budget are largely unpredictable. Outstanding contributions at the end of September totalled some \$522 million, almost 100 countries were in arrears and the largest contributor owed some \$353 million. There is a strong element of irresponsibility in the sort of behaviour that forces the General Assembly and the Secretariat to devote precious time and energy towards ensuring that the Organization can survive another 12 months, time and energy that comes at the expense of efforts which should be directed at the more effective use of resources and delivery of programmes.