

financial position of the United Nations. The Organization's continued financial difficulties are an increasing source of concern to my Delegation. Any organization must have more than members, hopes, desires and plans if it is to be a useful instrument in the service of mankind. For several years the United Nations has been struggling to maintain its effectiveness and to obtain the resources it requires in order to carry out the tasks assigned to it. What has occurred to reduce or limit the flow of funds from Member States for worthwhile United Nations activities? What has forced the United Nations to borrow funds from other accounts, to sell bonds and to stagger under the burden of over 80 million dollars in arrears?

Basically, the United Nations, as far as financial matters are concerned, is not unlike a national government. A government's ability to perform useful services for its citizens depends primarily on the wealth of the country, the desire of its citizens for particular governmental services and the effectiveness of the agency concerned in translating desires and funds into the satisfaction of needs. While the United Nations, like a national government, can sell bonds, it has no monetary printing presses. Therefore, in a democratic society, if a programme is decided by the majority to be desirable, it must be financed by methods acceptable to a majority before it can be implemented.

My Delegation believes that the United Nations financial problems have stemmed primarily from the refusal of some Member States to accept as binding decisions of the General Assembly with respect to the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations. This situation stemmed in part from the inability of some members to agree on the legality of UNEF and ONUC expenses. To resolve this disagreement, the Sixteenth General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on whether UNEF and ONUC costs constituted expenses of the Organization under Article 17 (2) of the Charter.