



**Secretariat**

ST/SGB/215  
17 January 1986

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BULLETIN

To: Members of the staff

Subject: THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. Through this bulletin I wish to inform all staff members of the serious financial situation facing the Organization and of related measures which I have decided to put into effect.
2. You will recall that, when I spoke in the General Assembly on 18 December 1985, I referred to certain recently enacted legislation and to unilateral withholdings of assessed contributions by Member States as measures that were contrary to obligations flowing from the Charter, endangering the financial viability of the Organization. Nothing has occurred since then to alleviate my deep concern on this matter; on the contrary, recent developments have added to the seriousness of the cash shortage confronting the Organization.
3. My earnest hope is that all Member States will respect their financial obligations under the Charter and I am taking all possible steps to this end. However, if the situation so requires, I shall need to place the full facts and options on how to deal with them before the General Assembly without delay, so that Member States may take the necessary decisions.
4. Meanwhile, in the light of the immediate cash situation, I have decided that the following steps should be taken, which, while affecting the implementation of mandated programmes, will least prejudice them. These steps, which lie within my competence are:
  - (a) A 20 per cent reduction in costs relating to: travel, the hiring of consultants, temporary assistance and overtime;
  - (b) The deferral of a number of alteration and maintenance projects;
  - (c) Strict and rigorous application of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the control and limitation of documentation.

On each of these measures, separate instructions will be issued.

5. Further, I intend to write to the presiding officers of the main intergovernmental bodies of the Organization seeking their support in reducing expenditures that could, with prudence, be avoided. I wish you to know that, for my part, I am curtailing my own travel to the greatest possible extent.

6. You will understand the seriousness of the situation we face. I am sure that I can count on your fullest co-operation in dealing with it. I shall keep you informed of developments.

Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR  
Secretary-General

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