



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Fifth Committee**

**Item 134. Proposed Programme budget: biennium 2012-2013
HRC Financing**

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries Montenegro* and Iceland+, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Serbia, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank the Controller, Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, for introducing the report of the Secretary General and the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Collen Kelapile, for his introduction of the related report of that Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach the greatest of importance to the question of the financing of implementation of decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council.

However we regret that this question has been introduced at such a late stage of the main session and that there has been limited time before the formal introduction for the Fifth Committee to consider the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

During the review of the Human Rights Council earlier this year the General Assembly recognized, in its resolution 65/281, the need to provide financing to fund unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and requested the Secretary-General to present a report with options for consideration by the Fifth Committee at the main part of the sixty-sixth session.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for suggesting three different options for consideration by the Committee. However it is concerning to have learnt, only at this late stage, that there is, and has been for many years, an existing procedure to allow for consideration of requests to finance unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council. It is worrying that during the extensive discussions earlier this year this existing procedure was not brought to light in the context of the review of the Human Rights Council.

Furthermore, it is of concern to us that the report of the Secretary-General did not comment more extensively on the existing procedure.

We are grateful therefore that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has focused on the current procedure to allow for consideration of unforeseen and extraordinary requests to fund expenses arising from decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council. In particular we welcome the Committee's commitment to consider such urgent requests as and when required, and echo the Committee's suggestions that the Secretary-General make every effort to ensure that the time taken to prepare the relevant submissions does not delay the release of resources. We also welcome the Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General be asked to report back to the General Assembly on the utilization of the procedure.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you that we will as always work closely with other delegations in order to reach a conclusion on this very important question.