



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

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to the United Nations**

**66th Session of the General Assembly  
Fifth Committee**

**Item 134. Proposed Programme budget: biennium 2012-2013  
Review of arrangements for funding and backstopping  
special political missions**

**United Nations**

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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 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. Kollen Kelapile, for his introduction of the related report of that Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to recognise the importance of Special Political Missions in preventing, controlling and resolving conflicts and in post-conflict peacebuilding, and alongside that the importance of effective and efficient support arrangements for the Missions. With that in mind, whilst we regret its late introduction, we look forward to a thorough discussion of the report of the Secretary-General on the funding and backstopping arrangements for SPMs.

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\* 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.

We have repeatedly asked for realistic forecasting and budgeting for political missions. However, the report mentions a number of issues, and presents a number of options, many of which in combination we consider would constitute radical and far-reaching change in the structure of the United Nations budgeting process. As political missions have long been a part of the regular budget, we believe that before the Committee would be able to take any decision on proposals of this magnitude it would have to understand fully what the issues are that it is seeking to address. In this sense, we are concerned that the report does not, at first sight, appear to be comprehensive in its analysis of the issues, nor in terms of the data and evidence that it presents. We note in this regard that the ACABQ has identified a number of shortcomings in the report of the Secretary-General. We will want to explore further and in much more depth the thinking behind these points in the informal sessions, looking fully at administrative implications, costs and risks involved in the various options.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, we have stated on many occasions that no proposal to reform the budget process should be considered in isolation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we have heard previously in formal statements from some delegations that they would like to consider a change in the scale of assessments applied to SPMs. We underline that none of the options in the Secretary-General's report imply any need for a change to the scale of assessments at which SPMs are assessed. We further reiterate that we have a very well-known position on the scale of assessments, and that any move of SPMs to the peacekeeping scale would lead to further distortions, which would be unacceptable to us and reduce the efficiency of the Fifth Committee further.

Mr. Chairman,

Please rest assured that we - as always - will engage constructively with other Member States in our discussions in order to ensure the continued effective and efficient operation of Special Political Missions.

Thank you.