



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Second Resumed Session
Fifth Committee**

Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations

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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 Member States of the European Union would like to thank the Controller, Assistant Secretary General, Ms Maria Eugenia Casar, for introducing the reports of the Secretary General. We would also like to thank the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr Colin Kelapile, the Chair of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, Mr John Muwanga, and the Under-Secretary General for Internal Oversight Services, Ms Carmen L Lapointe for introducing their reports.

Mr Chairman,

As we stated during the Organisational Session last week, the Member States of the European Union attach great importance to UN peacekeeping operations. We actively support and participate in them with troops, police and other resources and personnel.

We firmly believe in the necessity for scalability in the use of the Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations. In other words, the consolidation in the scale of peacekeeping activity should lead – albeit with a distinguishable delay to allow for increasing complexity and the time required for downsizing and withdrawal - to a further discernible downward trend in the proposed post and non-post resources for the support account. We are concerned that this does not appear to be the case. In fact, we note that the ratio of this Support Account budget request when compared to the overall peacekeeping budget request, is the second highest of the last five years. The proposed net reduction by only two posts – out of a total of 1259 - is also an indication that there remains substantial room for reduction in the support account, in line with the consolidation of peacekeeping operations as a whole.

The Member States of the European Union will therefore closely scrutinise all aspects of the proposal before us, particularly in relation to posts, costs of general temporary assistance, long term vacancies, as well as non-post resources.

Mr Chairman,

We concur with the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Secretary-General must redouble his efforts to determine what constitutes a core or basic capacity necessary to effectively support peacekeeping operations and what constitutes a scalable capacity that responds to changes in the level of peacekeeping activity, as was originally envisaged when the support account was first conceived and implemented. In this respect, we will, for example, ask for detailed information on the roles and existing division of labour between the Department of Field Support and the Department of Management and their respective posts and positions regarding peacekeeping finance.

We also note the increasing role of the global service centre in backstopping global peacekeeping. We do not think that the current situation is an ideal reflection of this reality. We concur with those who believe that a new presentation, in a clearer and more transparent manner, of the totality of the resources allocated for specific functions and for the support of peacekeeping as a whole, would help improve budgetary transparency and accountability.

With regard to the evaluation of the comprehensive pilot project undertaken by OIOS, we concur with the ACABQ in that we expect a full and complete report on the entire pilot project in the context of the proposed support account budget for the 2013/2014 period, fully taking into account the need to provide effective and efficient investigation services.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that the Member States of the European Union are committed to working closely with all partners in a spirit of openness, transparency and constructive cooperation in order to reach decisions by consensus on this item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.