



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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European Union Delegation to the United Nations

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First Resumed Session

Fifth Committee

Item 130

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

**Expanded Feasibility Study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation
needs 2014-2034**

United Nations

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- AS DELIVERED -

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 Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland⁺ and Serbia^{*}, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, the Member States of the European Union would like to thank the Under Secretary-General for Management, Mr. Takasu, for presenting the Secretary-General's report on the expanded feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs for the period 2014-2034, contained in document A/67/720. We further would like to thank the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Ruiz Massieu, for introducing that Committee's report, contained in document A/67/788.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to make a couple of observations on this important issue.

The Member States of the European Union have studied the respective reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters with great interest.

We noted the Secretary-General's request to enter into negotiations with the Development Corporation and other possible entities to ensure that the UN Consolidation Building remains a viable option. We will study this request and the related ACABQ's view on this in detail when discussing all possible options during upcoming informal consultations, as well as related issues such as implementation of flexible use of office space and flexible working arrangements, total population requirements, the inclusion of the Funds and Programmes in both the original and

^{*} Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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

expended feasibility studies, the need to respect the commemorative value of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library as well as the articulation between this project and other major capital expenditure projects.

We believe that the report of the SG contains insufficient information to enable the General Assembly to take a decision on the future accommodation needs during this first resumed session. We therefore concur with the ACABQ that, given the incomplete nature of the information provided in the report and many related uncertainties, all possible options should be kept open for consideration until we have received more details.

Mr. Chairman, the Member States of the European Union stand ready to engage constructively in discussions on these and other issues. You can count on our support on the challenges ahead of us.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.