



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

Miss Carmel Power

First Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

69th Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Second Resumed Session

Financial and BoA reports

United Nations

New York

4 May 2015

– As delivered –

Mr. Chairman,

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, Armenia, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank Mr Fransis Kitauli, Chairman of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors, Ms Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, the UN Budget Controller, and Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ, for introducing their respective reports.

We would like to use this occasion to reiterate that the Member States of the European Union attach great importance to the role of the Board of Auditors. Through its high quality reports and useful recommendations, the Board is constantly contributing to the development of a more accountable and transparent UN system.

Such independent expertise is very important also in the area of peacekeeping operations, where we have witnessed an increase in the volume of activities and in the budget in the last few years. In the report presented today, the Board has provided us with information which is indispensable to our decision-making.

In line with its usual practice, the Board clearly points out a number of particularly pressing issues in relevant areas such as improvements to be made to budget formulation and the magnitude of the redeployment of resources, as well as asset and travel management, procurement and contracting, the Global Field Support Strategy, air transportation, construction projects and the management of QIPS, and information and communications technology. By and large, we concur with the Board's analysis and believe that improvements in such sectors should be priority areas for the Organisation.

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

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to commend the efforts made by the Administration in addressing the concerns of the Board by increasing its implementation rate of the Board's recommendations, including improved monitoring. However we also concur with the ACABQ that more detail is needed on actions taken to address the Board's concerns and the need for the Organisation to continue to strengthen its internal control framework in peacekeeping operations.

The Member States of the European Union will pay close attention to all the pertinent issues the Board of Auditors raised in its report and we will also follow the status of implementation of its recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.