



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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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 Armenia, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Management, Mr. Yukio Takasu, for presenting the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the UN Secretariat, as well as Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ, for introducing the related report of his Committee.

Mr Chairman,

We should like to make a few short observations on this very important agenda item.

The Member States of the European Union welcome the progress made in designing and implementing a Secretariat-wide enterprise risk management framework. This framework, long called for by this Committee and other oversight bodies, will be a crucial management tool in enhancing accountability as well as strengthening governance and oversight throughout the UN. We welcome the steps taken by the Management Committee to clearly define ownership among the UN's senior leadership for each of the UN's top risks. We would agree with the ACABQ that continued commitment at all levels will be required to ensure that a culture of accountability is embedded in the working habits of the Secretariat. Holding senior managers accountable for the delivery of results, not just outputs, clearly remains a work in progress, and more needs to be done to promote a real culture of accountability, but we consider it is moving in the right direction.

We look forward to receiving updates during our informal discussions on action taken to strengthen accountability in other important areas such as procurement, field missions, and personal accountability. In this respect, we welcome the reference in the Secretary-General's report to the issue of late documentation, something which plagues this Committee, and expect that the revised process of direct oversight by the Management Committee will address the systemic challenges in this regard. We also welcome the recommendation of the ACABQ relating to senior managers being held accountable for the responsible stewardship of financial and human resources. The effective use of resources, which has a direct impact on the delivery of mandates, should be central to any system of accountability.

Mr. Chairman, the Member States of the European Union stand ready to engage constructively in discussions on this important issue including the question of the future frequency of the report, and its future content.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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