



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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-As delivered-

Madam Chair,

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, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, we would like to thank Assistant-Secretary-General for Central Support Services, Mr. Stephen Cutts, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations procurement activities, and Mr. Babou Sene, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report of that Committee. I would also like to thank Inspector Cihan Terzi for introducing the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system, as well as Mr. Kenneth Herman, Senior Adviser on Information Management Policy Coordination in the United Nations CEB Secretariat for introducing the note of the Secretary-General as CEB Chair on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Madam Chair,

First of all, the EU Member States welcome the broad information in the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on the activities of the Secretariat on procurement and, in particular, on the key initiatives undertaken to advance a strategic approach to procurement and modernize the acquisition process for critical requirements, for the best interest of the Organisation.

Specifically, we note with great interest the outreach efforts carried out by the Secretariat and especially the Procurement Division and, in particular, welcome their multifaceted outreach approach. We commended efforts made by the Secretariat to reach out to the widest possible audience by making the United Nations Global Market Place online portal available in several languages, and we encourage similar efforts with regard to the UN Procurement Manual. Indeed, informing both the vendors and the Member States about the business opportunities that the UN system provides, as well as helping them to understand procurement guidelines and practices, is key in enhancing the transparency of the system. We therefore encourage the Division to continue its work on these important matters.

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

We are also pleased to note the evolutionary progress being made in a number of areas by the Secretariat, such as in utilising Umoja to enable more strategic management of UN procurement; in modernising air charter procurement; and in securing greater efficiency and economy via improved Mission critical contracts.

In addition, and especially with regard to the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Member States of the European Union believe that the UN's procurement activities should reflect this global sustainable development policy, and integrate requirements, specifications and criteria that are compatible with and supportive of the protection of the environment and human rights obligations, and are mindful of our commitment to fight forced labour and the worst forms of child labour.

We look forward to discussing these and other issues related to UN procurement with our partners.

I thank you, Madam Chair.