



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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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 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 and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank Mr. Yukio Takasu for his presentation, as Under-Secretary-General for Management, on 6 May, which provided us with useful information on the financial situation of the United Nations and on how Member States fulfil their obligations under the UN Charter to contribute to the financial expenses of the Organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

Underpinning the work of the United Nations is a partnership between the Member States and the Organisation. It remains vital that all parties, Member States and Secretariat, take this partnership seriously, including in the context of both providing and utilising funding in a responsible manner. In this regard, we are pleased to learn that, as at 30 April 2015, the number of Member States that have paid their assessments to the regular budget in full has increased from last year; however, the significant level of outstanding assessments remains a concern. In particular, we wish to note with concern that, as at 30 April 2015, 23 Member States had paid all peacekeeping assessments, and that this number has not increased from the same time last year.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Equally important, the presentation of Mr Takasu reminds us that, while the UN cash position remains healthy, it is imperative that concrete steps are taken, at all levels, to spend more wisely, to deliver in new ways, and to ensure that the Organisation lives within the agreed budget levels. This applies to all activities of the UN, from peacekeeping, to construction, to the Regular Budget. An unceasing effort to find new and creative ways to work is essential to achieve more effective delivery of mandates and sustainable use of resources.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.