



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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**Item 148: Administrative and budgetary aspects of financing of PKOs –
Crosscutting issues**

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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 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.

At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support on his first appearance in this Committee in his new capacity. I would like to thank him, as well as Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller; and Ms. Carole Wamuyu Wainaina, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, for introducing the reports of the Secretary General. I would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, Ms. Carman L. Lapointe, for introducing their respective reports.

Mr Chairman,

As we reaffirmed in our statement at the opening of this session on 4 May, the Member States of the European Union attach great importance to peacekeeping – a core task of the Organisation and the UN's flagship activity. With the tragic loss of lives of peacekeepers in DRC last night, we are reminded again of the risks faced by peacekeepers, let me pay tribute again to all those who have lost their lives in the pursuit of peace. It is with their sacrifice in mind that we are reminded of the practical significance of our deliberations. The Member States of the European Union are strong supporters of peacekeeping and are committed to ensuring that UN peacekeeping is as effective as possible in order to serve the need of maintaining peace and security. We are actively engaged as participants in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations and other relevant activities, contributing with troops, civilian police and other personnel. We are also important contributors financially.

Mr. Chairman,

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

We attach great importance to the Secretary-General's Overview Report, which provides a valuable basis for addressing the evolving challenges of peacekeeping. After two years in which the Committee was unable to conclude a cross-cutting resolution, we should build on the positive momentum in our Committee and work cooperatively to achieve a more fruitful outcome this year. We are open to pragmatic approaches, such as focusing on areas where the Committee can agree, rather than on those where experience suggests we cannot.

We note that the Secretary General's initial proposed budget for the financial period 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016 is \$8.49 billion, another historic high. This means that, more than ever, strict budgetary discipline will continue to be necessary to ensure that resources are really needed and used as effectively and efficiently as possible. To that end, we will be scrutinising closely the budgets of all the peacekeeping missions, as well as the support functions.

In these tasks ahead of us, we will of course be guided by the observations and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as well as those of the Board of Auditors. We will also give serious consideration to the valued recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Mr Chairman,

We have many important issues to consider in the reports before us under this wide-ranging agenda item, and we can only touch briefly on some of them.

Our assessment of the peacekeeping needs presupposes an understanding of the real picture on military and police personnel and civilian personnel requirements across missions and its likely impact on the proposed budget. For this reason, closer scrutiny of the civilian component of peacekeeping continues to be essential. In this regard, we look forward to hearing more on the results of the Secretariat's on-going reviews of civilian staffing in missions.

Similarly, it is necessary to closely scrutinise the proposed levels of operational costs. There is still a margin of improvement in the areas of air transportation, training and travel costs, fuel, consultants, construction planning, rations delivery and asset management. We are also ready to take a closer look at the implications on mission budgets of exchange rate variations. We also see value in updating the standard equipment ratio manuals to reflect developments in technology as well as the life cycle of the mission and to protect staff safety and security, in setting up

multi-year plans, especially on construction, and in renewing the Office of Partnership for Strategic Peacekeeping. We also look forward to hearing about the implementation of Umoja in the missions and its impact on their working procedure and overall performance. All in all, we welcome the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to identify sustainable efficiency measures, which should be distinct from reductions resulting from mandate changes, and will be interested in the scope for more consistent efforts across missions and more targeted direction from Headquarters.

Furthermore, we wish to reiterate that effective budgetary procedures are crucial for sustainable, predictable and affordable budgets. We recall our concern at the inability of current budgetary practices to reflect sooner Security Council decisions to reduce the authorised strength for uniformed mission personnel.

Mr Chairman,

We reiterate our continued full support for the Global Field Support Strategy and its full implementation. As the strategy nears the end of its fifth year, it is important to take stock of progress made and look into the mainstreaming and consolidation of its components. In particular, while we welcome the progress achieved in the operations of the Regional Service Centre (RSC) in Entebbe, we consider at the same time that its performance should be further strengthened and improved. We continue to see value in the business model of a shared service delivery centre and we believe that we should build on it to develop a strong support capacity for missions based on a common governance model.

Mr Chairman,

Let us say it once again: one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse is one case too many. We therefore remain concerned about the number of allegations which are reported, and look forward to hearing more on this as well as on developments in investigating allegations and on action to improve prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Member States of the European Union stand ready to engage constructively on this important agenda item during the course of negotiations.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.