



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Fifth Committee**

**Item 148: Administration and budgetary aspects of financing UN PKOs -
Support Account for PKOs**

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- As Delivered -

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union on the issue of the Support Account for Peacekeeping Operations.

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.

Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the Controller, Assistant Secretary-General, Ms Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, for introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations and the Chair of the ACABQ, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing his Committee's report.

Madam Chair,

As we reaffirmed at the start of the current session, the Member States of the European Union continue to attach great importance to UN peacekeeping operations as a core task of the Organisation. Peacekeeping support functions are an important factor in ensuring mandate delivery in the field.

We will therefore carefully consider the proposals before us. In that regard, we share ACABQ's observations on the challenges in the presentation of the peacekeeping support account reports which are increasingly complex to digest and analyse. In line with ACABQ, we would therefore encourage the Secretary-General to explore presentational improvements in future reports to facilitate understanding and comparisons between financial periods.

The Secretary-General's proposal represents an increase compared to the appropriation for 2014-15. While this is mainly due to provisions for enterprise resource planning and information systems security, we note that once again the number of posts requested increases, mostly due to proposed conversions from general temporary assistance. Also as ACABQ notes, the Secretary General's presentation understates the real size of the increase if one factors in ICT costs previously included in the support account and which were transferred this year by the Secretary-General to the proposed mission budgets. So in reality, the increase to the support account, including the ICT costs, is some \$3.4m higher. As ACABQ also notes, there is a similar impact on the proposed resource level of the support account if one considers the \$4m of supply chain management costs which were included in the mission budget proposals rather than the support account.

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

Moreover, this proposed increase in total posts and positions under the support account comes at a time when in the same period, the numbers of both military and police personnel and civilian staff in peacekeeping decrease. Also notwithstanding the declining numbers of personnel in peacekeeping, the combined share of the support account and UNLB as a percentage of the resources proposed for peacekeeping missions in 2015-16, is expected to remain the same at 4.7% as in 2014-15. As we have consistently noted, bearing in mind that support functions should be scalable to the size and scope of peacekeeping operations and that there should be a relationship between the level of support account backstopping and the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations, we will be interested in hearing how the Secretariat took account of this in their review of requirements for 2015-16 and how this is reflected in the budget before us. The rationale for conversion of GTA positions to posts will also be of interest in view of ACABQ's comments in this respect.

Madam Chair,

The Member States of the European Union would like to reiterate the importance of keeping in mind the purpose of the support account as envisaged when first conceived and implemented. It should be properly structured, transparent and relevant in relation to the evolving mandates so that it can provide the core or basic capacity to support peacekeeping operations.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, we look forward to working constructively and closely with all partners to reach consensus on this issue.

Thank you, Madam Chair.