



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

69th Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Second Resumed Session

Organisation of Work

United Nations

New York

4 May 2015

- 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 the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

Peacekeeping activities, which are at the core of United Nations action, have evolved immensely over the last fifteen years and remain an important priority for the Member States of the European Union. We attach great importance to peacekeeping operations as a vital instrument in advancing peace and security in the world, and will continue to do what is necessary to ensure that UN peacekeeping is effective and serves the need of addressing ever changing and complex crises. We would like to recognise the demanding conditions in which peacekeepers carry out their work, and pay tribute 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 make an important contribution to peace and security. We actively support and participate in UN mandated peacekeeping operations and other relevant activities throughout the world, and contribute with troops, civilian police and other personnel. As the largest collective financial contributors, with shares amounting in total to 36.8 per cent of the peacekeeping budget, we continue to have a strong interest in making UN peacekeeping even more efficient and effective. We will therefore closely examine the budgets of all the peacekeeping missions, as well as the support functions, with a view to providing them with adequate financing to carry out their mandates.

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

Mr Chairman,

The Secretary-General's proposed budgets for peacekeeping missions for the financial period 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016 currently total \$8.49 billion according to the reports before us. The level of the proposed requirements and ongoing budgetary constraints in our countries mean that strict budgetary discipline remains necessary to ensure that resources are used effectively, efficiently and in an accountable and transparent manner.

We would also note the importance we attach to the Secretary-General's Overview Report. After two years in which the Committee was unable to conclude a cross-cutting resolution, we are optimistic for a more fruitful outcome this year.

In addition to the many peacekeeping issues on our agenda, we will also of course consider some important Regular Budget items. In that regard, we look forward to discussing the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), with a view to facilitating the seamless transition of UNMEER functions to national authorities as well as United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and implementing partners.

Mr Chairman,

The agenda ahead of us contains many important items; we will address the EU approach on the different issues in our respective statements when the items are introduced. In the meantime let me reiterate that the Member States of the European Union remain committed to working closely with all stakeholders in a spirit of openness, transparency and constructive cooperation under the skilful guidance of the Chair, the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Committee, with the aim of reaching decisions and finishing this Second Resumed Session on time, just as we managed to do in our First Resumed Session in March.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.