



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

At the outset let me thank you, Mr Chairman, for your tireless efforts to guide us through a complex agenda and to lead the work of this Committee to a successful conclusion by consensus and in time. We commend the fair and impartial role you have played throughout and you can be assured of our strong support as you continue to lead this Committee. Our thanks also go to the members of the bureau and the Secretary of the Committee and her team for their invaluable support.

Mr Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union are staunch supporters of the UN and of the principle of effective multilateralism. We very much value the work of the 5th committee as the main committee for budgetary and administrative issues of the United Nations. We also attach great importance to its working practices. We are extremely pleased that the committee could come to its conclusions on time and by consensus on important items such as the scale of assessments for the period 2016-2019, the Programme Budget of 2016-2017 and the review of the compensation package for professional staff throughout the UN system. The agreements on the budget and the common system are important milestones that will define the functioning of the United Nations in the coming years. Let me repeat that for the member states of the European Union, the principle of consensus stands at the heart of the working practices of the 5th Committee. We recognize that all major groups and delegations have demonstrated great flexibility in reaching this goal and we would like to thank each and everyone of you for your constructive engagement on all issues. This session demonstrated that member states and groups can take collective decisions in the interest of the Organization and its high standing objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

2015 was not only the year of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, it was also the year during which several landmark multilateral agreements were agreed. The 2016-2017 program budget should allow the organization to assist in reaching these goals in an effective and efficient way and enable the Organization to discharge its often highly complex mandates. The agreement reached on the review of the compensation package for professional staff in its turn should enable the Organization to continue to attract staff of the highest professional expertise and integrity from all over the world.

Mr Chairman,

The Committee has worked tirelessly over the last several weeks, in a spirit of good faith, to conclude its important agenda. We are convinced that we will keep this momentum and be able to achieve the same outstanding outcomes during the first and second resumed session of the 70th General Assembly, and beyond.

I thank you Mr. Chairman