



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

Mr. Jan de Preter

First Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

70th Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Item 132A: Fifth Progress Report on the accountability system in the United

Nations Secretariat

First Resumed Session

United Nations

New York

8 March 2016

Mr Chairman,

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

Mr Chairman,

We would like to make a few short observations on this important agenda item.

First of all, the EU Member States welcome the broad information in the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the Secretariat on Accountability and, in particular, on the key initiatives undertaken to continue to embed and advance a strategic approach to Accountability.

The Member States of the European Union welcome the progress made in preparing an anti-Fraud Framework. In this regard we would be interested in receiving a status update on the development of this initiative, as recommended by the ACABQ. We welcome the assertion that the now implemented Secretariat-wide enterprise risk management framework has proven its added value and look forward to receiving more information on this.

We are pleased to note that steps have been taken by the Management Committee to clearly define ownership among the UN's senior leadership for each of the UN's top risks. Holding senior managers accountable for the delivery of results, not just outputs, clearly remains a work in progress, and more needs to be done to promote a real culture of accountability, ensuring this is mainstreamed throughout the work of the Secretariat, but we consider it is moving in the right direction.

We look forward to receiving updates during our informal discussions as to how the implementation of Umoja has helped strengthen accountability.

We also welcome the recommendation of the ACABQ relating to the view that the credibility of the accountability framework rests on the ability of the Organization to operationalize and enforce measures for staff and officials who have not adequately exercised their responsibilities. The effective use of resources, which has a direct impact on the delivery of mandates, should be central to any system of accountability.

Mr. Chairman, the Member States of the European Union stand ready to engage constructively in discussions on this important issue including the question of the future frequency of the report, and its future content.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.