Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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

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Item 134E: Status of Implementation of the Information and Communications Strategy for the United Nations

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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 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[*] and Albania[*], the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information and Technology Officer, Ms. Atefeh Riazi, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the Status of Implementation of the information and communications technology strategy for the UN, contained in document A/70/364 and Corrigendum 1. Our thanks also go to the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the related report of that committee, contained in document A/70/7/Add 18.

Mr. Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union continue to underline the importance of ICT in meeting the growing demands of the Organization as it becomes increasingly reliant on its ICT infrastructure, as well as in increasing the availability of accurate and timely information to support decision-making and in strengthening oversight and accountability. We welcome the report before us as an important step towards achieving these goals, as well as to improving service delivery by reducing fragmentation in ICT infrastructure and resources, achieving greater cyber security, supporting a more mobile and agile workforce, and rationalising the application landscape, including eliminating redundant,

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[*] *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

duplicative and obsolete applications. We concur with the ACABQ that a comprehensive, secure, reliable and efficient ICT infrastructure is a critical enabler of a number of major Secretariat-wide business transformation and change management initiatives, including the enterprise resource planning system (Umoja). The streamlining of ICT systems and the harmonization of existing data processing functions and technology units are integral to ensuring a coherent and effective ICT structure free of overlap, disconnect or redundancy of purpose, and to reducing the ICT carbon footprint in order to align ICT development and delivery objectives with organizational priorities.

We therefore strongly concur with the comments of the ACABQ that it is essential that the implementation of the elements of the ICT strategy should proceed in a full and timely manner.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach great importance to the governance framework in overseeing ICT policies and guidelines, architecture, standards and investment choices to ensure standardized management of ICT resources throughout the ICT landscape and welcome that guidance on managing data, resources and tools has been promulgated. However, we note that further efforts are required and look forward to receiving updates in this regard.

To this end, we note the comments of the Board of Auditors contained in A/67/551 as well as in A/69/5 (Vol. I) on the interim follow-up on the handling of ICT affairs in the Secretariat, specifically that it is integral that the Secretariat establish a common vision and commitment across the Organization. In this regard, we greatly look forward to the follow-up report of the Board of Auditors on the handling of ICT affairs in the Secretariat.

We recall that in its resolution 69/262 the General Assembly requested that an indicative five-year overall information and communications technology budget projection be presented for the Secretariat. We look forward to discussing the elements of the benchmarking exercise, assessment and planning assumptions of the indicative budget projection during the course of our deliberations. We stress the importance of providing clear and transparent information to support decision-making.

Mr. Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union also agree with the comments of the ACABQ that it is integral to ensure that all ICT resources are optimally managed, as well as to ensure value for money for ICT investment, and we look forward to receiving updates on the global sourcing plan, with a view to consolidating and leveraging ICT buying power in order to negotiate the best rates and discounts, where appropriate, for ICT goods and services.

The mainstreaming plan for Umoja to the CITO is an important and critical element of ensuring the full realization of all benefits of the project and we concur with the Board of Auditors' observation that there should be a strong priority within the strategy on enabling the delivery of the Umoja system. We encourage the OICT and Umoja teams to continue to collaborate closely so as to ensure a successful transition and the creation of an effective Umoja support model.

Mr. Chairman,

Rest assured that the Member States of the European Union look forward to discussing all issues in the upcoming informal consultations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.