



**Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union**

**By**

**Mr. Jan de Preter**

**Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**70<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Fifth Committee**

**Main Session**

**Item 134: Revised Estimates: FFD and 2030 Agenda**

**Main Session**

**15 December 2015**

**United Nations**

**New York**

**-- 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\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, Md. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled "transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". 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.

At the outset, please let me repeat our strong support to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted last summer. They truly offer a global framework for action of unprecedented ambition and the resounding success represents an outcome we can all be proud of. The EU and its Member States are determined to contribute to the implementation of this new overarching framework. We are also committed to ensuring strong mechanisms to follow-up on, and review the implementation of, these landmark agreements.

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

While recognising that the decisions taken over the summer might have budgetary implications, we however have serious concerns regarding the report recently produced by the Secretariat on the budgetary implications of the 2030/AAAA texts for the biennium 2016-17.

Mr. Chairman,

It was always our understanding that the Secretariat was preparing a comprehensive, system-wide proposal on how the UN system would adapt to the 2030 Agenda, including budgetary implications. Yet, the Report does not seem to be based on such an overarching vision. Instead, it is the product of a bottom-up, UNDESA-centred approach. The methodology is also imprecise: requests are not sufficiently substantiated and baselines are unclear.

Also, the report is silent on reprioritisation. We have consistently argued that the 2030 implementation would first and foremost take place at the country level. Since the UN will have an important supporting role to play, the main effort within every entity and across the system should be one of reprioritisation, redeployment, avoiding duplication and stepping up system-wide coherence and efficiency. This dimension is absent from the report.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the report perpetuates silos. The outcome documents recognise that Addis is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. However, the Report treats them as two largely autonomous processes. As a result, the Report makes no suggestions on how to make sure that UNDESA works in a more

integrated/coordinated fashion. The Member States of the European Union have long advocated for increased coherence and integration between processes and Secretariat divisions. Integrated Secretariat support is needed for the HLPF and the ECOSOC. In following-up on the 2030 Agenda, we need to draw on the expertise already available in the Secretariat. However, the Report does not offer an integrated vision.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the member states of the European Union concur with the conclusions reached by ACABQ and stand ready to formally adopt this approach, in order to ensure that implementation of activities can commence, while at the same time recognizing that further efforts need to be made to determine how the decisions contained in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development are proposed to be implemented. The Member States of the European Union are looking forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations on that matter, as per paragraph 90 of the Agenda 2030 outcome.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.