



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 134F: Enterprise Resource Planning – UMOJA

Main Session

19 November 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 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 Armenia, Ukraine and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank the Under-Secretary-General for Management, Mr. Yukio Takasu, for introducing the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project. Let me also thank the Chair of the Audit Operations Committee, Board of Auditors, Mr. Salhina Mkumba, for introducing the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fourth annual progress report of the Board on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system. Let me also thank the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Carlos Ruiz-Massieu, for introducing the report of that Committee on the same item.

Mr. Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union have been and continue to be strong supporters of implementing an enterprise resource planning solution

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

(Umoja), aimed at modernizing a wide range of business processes and systems that are crucial to the efficient and effective management of the Organization. Through the implementation of Umoja the Organisation should continue to seek to harmonise business processes and reduce unnecessary duplication of work, and once fully deployed will improve the UN's front-line delivery and enhance the Secretariat's ability to deliver on mandates.

We understand that the Umoja Integration solution was deployed to cluster 4 entities, including departments and offices located at UNHQ, on the 9th of November and we welcome the achievement of such an important milestone in the implementation of Umoja at the United Nations. This represents a critical progress point of the project, and we thank all staff involved in the deployment for all their efforts.

We have taken note of the seventh report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project and of the observations made by the Board of Auditors and by the ACABQ. Notwithstanding the significant progress achieved, including the Board of Auditor's key finding that there has been sustained and consistent improvement in respect of Umoja project management, challenges and risks to the project remain and must be addressed if the ERP system is to deliver its full scope and functionality and yield the full realization of benefits. Risks include further timeline slippage of elements of the project, as well as the associated cost escalation.

We agree with the BoA's comments that there is a need to evaluate the case for an Umoja optimization project, and concur with the comments made in the progress report that continuous improvements must be implemented in

order to fully exploit the opportunities arising from the implementation of the ERP solution and to adopt industry best practices.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also stress that the Member States of the European Union attach great importance to the implementation of Umoja Extension 2, which currently includes functionalities related mainly to supply chain management, budget formulation, programme management, conference and event management, and force planning. The “budget module” as it has been referred to will also provide better granularity of data, enabling managers to know better the full costs of activity and improving the budget formulation process, which should aid Member States in our decision making. We strongly concur with the ACABQ in that the implementation of the full scope of the project is necessary to protect the investment already made by Member States, as well as to fully realise all benefits of the project. To this end, it is essential that the Umoja Integration solution is maintained and updated centrally in a well-coordinated manner and we look forward to discussing the mainstreaming plan for Umoja in more detail during the course of our deliberations, taking into account all BoA comments on transition planning and the transfer of knowledge and resourcing. We also look forward to discussing in more detail how the Organisation will ensure that the valuable skills and expertise of the Umoja project staff are retained going forward.

We continue to stress the importance of a continued and strengthened commitment of senior management and process owners to the successful deployment of UMOJA in their respective areas. This includes their

responsibility and accountability for ensuring organizational readiness and adoption of standard business processes. Umoja is now the daily solution used by UN staff in offices around the world, including 33 peacekeeping missions, and ensuring that these new ways of working are fully embedded is crucial for the success of the project.

Mr. Chairman,

Rest assured that the Member States of the European Union are looking forward to discussing these issues further with all other member states as well as the Secretariat in the upcoming informal consultations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.