



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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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 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 Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, we would like to thank Mr. David Kanja, Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Head of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, for the presentation of the report on the activities of the Office for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. We would like to congratulate Mme. Heidi Mendoza on her appointment as new Under Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and look forward to working with her during this important point in time for OIOS. We would also like to thank the former USG, Ms. Carman Lapointe, for her excellent work as the head of OIOS. Finally, let me also thank the Chair of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, Mr. Joseph Cristopher Mihm, for presenting the report on the activities of the Committee for the period from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the OIOS for its work and to emphasize once again the strong and longstanding support of the Member States of the European Union for the efforts carried out by the Office. We welcome the clear reporting of the OIOS on its annual activities and appreciate its continuous endeavours to look for ways

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

of improving the quality of its own performance. The publication of internal audit and evaluation reports, made permanent last year, is moreover assisting the Member States, as well as the general public, in gaining a better insight into the work of the Office.

In this regard, we commend the efforts that already have been made in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination with other UN oversight entities, and encourage the Office to further expand and intensify these activities in order to share experiences, information and practices, as well as to avoid potential duplication and overlap in their work. Moreover, we welcome the continued efforts made by the OIOS to establish systematic risk management in order to promote effectiveness and efficiency of its operations.

The Member States of the European Union would like to stress the importance of the full implementation of the critical recommendations made by OIOS. Furthermore, we would like to reiterate the need for more efficient monitoring processes of the implementation, and in this context call on programme managers to set and adhere to realistic target dates for the implementation of recommendations.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the recent charges and allegations that were made against a former President of the General Assembly, we concur with the Secretary-General when he stated that these serious allegations go to the heart of the work of the United Nations and its Member States and when he reaffirmed that there will be no tolerance for any corruption at the United Nations or in the name of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

We would also like to thank the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for their report. We appreciate the efforts made by the Committee and its members, and recognize the importance of their work.

The Member States of the European Union welcome the recommendations and conclusions of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee. We would also like to, once again, express our strong support for the operational independence of the OIOS as a fundamental interest to the Organization as a whole. In this respect we are appreciative of the Committee's detailed examination of this issue, as mandated in paragraph 67 of General Assembly resolution 69/307, and we will carefully study all recommendations in the report. We also note that further recommendations in this area may be presented as part of the report of the External Independent Review of the United Nations response to the situation in the Central African Republic.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.