



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Organisation of Work

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

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first thank you for your continued engagement in the work of the 5th committee. We would also like to thank all other members of the Bureau for their support and guidance. Once more, we have a difficult task ahead but we are confident that with your experience and under your leadership, these important negotiations will reach a fruitful conclusion. For our part, we want to continue the same effective and constructive spirit demonstrated in the main session.

We are also pleased to be able to draw on the extensive experience of the Secretariat of the Committee, as well as on that of other Secretariat officials and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, whose contribution is crucial for the conclusion of our programme of work.

We would like to recall our view of the importance of timely submissions of all required documentation in all official languages to facilitate the quality and speed of our discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

We have a number of important items on the agenda during this session, including issues which have been deferred from previous sessions, such as the Resident Coordinator System. We also have numerous reports on human resources management before us. We stand ready to further discuss these during the informal consultations. However, many of the reports are over 18 months old, and the upcoming 71st main session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly will be mainly devoted to the same issue of human resources management. By then, the Committee will have before it updated reports on all Human Resources Management issues. Therefore, we would also like to call upon all of us to find a pragmatic approach on these issues.

The new items on our agenda also, of course, deserve our upmost attention, including issues such as Special Political Missions, as well as Construction and Property Management.

We will have more to say on the position of the EU Member States on agenda items as they are introduced.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Since it is only two months after the adoption of a new programme budget for the biennium, we will ensure that the revised estimates that will be presented to us during this session correspond to mandated activities and are in accordance with the established budget procedure.

More specifically with regard to the revised estimates relating to the report of the Secretary-General on the Future of UN Peace Operations and the pending report on the 2030 Agenda, we would like to recall that the principles of effectiveness, efficiency and budgetary discipline are now more important than ever, when emerging and growing challenges impel new functions and mandates, which will in turn require a rethink of approach.

We would also like to recall the importance of presenting comprehensive proposals related to major change initiatives whenever possible, thereby avoiding a piecemeal approach to the budget. This also implies managing for results as well as the necessary reprioritisation and redeployment of mandates and resources. We would also like to call upon you, Mr. Chairman, to clarify from a procedural perspective as to how and when proposals on any of these major political change initiatives will be presented to us, taking into account the already heavy workload of the committee.

With this in mind, we would like to reaffirm our belief that there is still substantial room for improving the efficient and effective functioning of the UN through taking full advantage of the potential of a leaner and more mobile organization utilizing fully new IT platforms.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that the Member States of the European Union are continuously committed to working closely with all partners in a spirit of openness, transparency and constructive cooperation in order to reach decisions by consensus at the conclusion of the first resumed session. We do believe that our programme of work can be completed by 24 March. Last year, the committee approached negotiations in an effective and constructive spirit. Our cooperation in the 5th Committee has improved and we should continue our efforts. We are confident that we will be able to keep up this spirit and this momentum going into the upcoming sessions this year.

I thank you,

Mr. Chairman