



**71st Session of the General Assembly**

**Fifth Committee**

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

**By**

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**136. Improving the financial situation of the UN**

**New York**

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*As delivered*

Madam Vice Chair,

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

Madam Vice Chair,

I would like to thank Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under Secretary General for Management, for his presentation of 4 May on the Financial Situation of the UN, and for his additional comments today.

Ensuring the financial health of the UN is a shared responsibility: a partnership between the Member States and the Organisation that underpins the UN's capacity to fulfil its mandates. Promoting sound financial management at the UN is therefore a priority of the European Union.

We have learned that, as of the end of April 2017, unpaid assessments were lower in all categories compared to one year ago. This direction of travel is the right one. But unpaid assessments continue to impact negatively on the financial health of the UN. We reiterate the importance of all Member States paying their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. We note that a small number of Member States are responsible for a large proportion of unpaid assessments, and we call on them to address this as a priority.

As in recent years, the Secretariat predicts that the level of cash available for the Regular Budget will tighten towards the end of the year. The full and timely payment of assessed contributions is key in this regard.

We are encouraged that the level of outstanding payments to troop and equipment contributors has decreased slightly compared with last year. We urge more progress in this area.

Madam Vice Chair,

Financial health depends not only on the reliability of funds coming in. It depends also on the standards applied to how the funds are spent. The UN must continue to strive to spend more wisely, with greater accountability, and respect agreed budget levels.

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

The Member States of the European Union are committed to providing the Organisation with the necessary resources to conduct its work, while believing firmly that there is still substantial room for improving the UN's operation by adopting approaches aimed at further savings and efficiencies, and by promoting meaningful reprioritisation of activity and the delivery of results.

Thank you, Madam Vice Chair.