



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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~As delivered~

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union.

At the outset, allow me to thank you for your excellent work as Chair of the Fifth Committee during the 71st Session of the General Assembly. The Committee has managed to achieve consensus on all important items at hand, in a spirit of compromise and collective thinking in the interest of the Organization as a whole. We greatly value and appreciate your skillful guidance in leading us through our agenda, with the aim of successfully concluding the different sessions of the Fifth Committee. We also would like to thank all members of the Bureau for their hard work, as well as all members of the UN Secretariat, in particular the Fifth Committee secretariat.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and commitment of all UN personnel involved in the difficult task of peacekeeping. We also pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives while serving in a UN peacekeeping mission.

The Member States of the European Union attach great importance to peacekeeping as a core task of the Organization. We highly value the partnership between the UN Secretariat, troop contributing countries, host countries, and financial contributors that makes UN peacekeeping unique. We value the consensus-based working methods of the Fifth Committee to ensure that all partners and actors are engaged in continuing this partnership. Our political will to find a negotiated solution to the challenges

we all had to confront demonstrates our ability to act together to meet our responsibilities in the interest of UN peacekeeping.

We believe the Fifth Committee has an important role to play in ensuring that mandates are implemented in the most effective and efficient way possible. This also includes implementing mandates in the field of human rights, gender activities and protection of civilians in general. The Fifth Committee is a key actor in the overall peacekeeping architecture of the UN. However, its role does not extend to mandate setting and we should respect these boundaries.

We should always take decisions in the interest of the effectiveness and efficiency of individual missions and of peacekeeping as a whole. We therefore believe that peacekeeping missions should be able to make use of modern technologies and innovation, should abide by the highest environmental standards and should be as nimble and agile as possible. We look forward to further discussions on peace and security reform and management reform under the leadership of the Secretary General.

In that regard we regret that we could not find a comprehensive agreement on the cross-cutting resolution. We recognize, however, the importance of having an agreement on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. UN peacekeepers spread the image of the UN in the world, and this image cannot be tarnished by any form of misconduct. We therefore look forward to ambitious follow-up to initiatives that have been taken by the Secretary General, and to the high-level event in September.

Again the Committee has been unable to conclude this peacekeeping session within the time officially allocated. There is a strong shared feeling that four weeks are not enough to deal with the complex matters at hand and with the massive amount of work that the approval of each individual peacekeeping budget entails. In the past we have made detailed proposals in this regard and we hope that in the future the second resumed session could start in early May with a view to concluding its business with a firm political deadline by mid-June at the latest. We continue to look forward to discussing this item with the wider membership of the Committee.

Finally let me pay tribute to all the colleagues who have been working with us in this committee and are leaving us this summer. The Fifth Committee is a people's business and all our results are the result of a collective effort. We would like to thank every single one of you for your unique contribution to consensus.

I thank you Madam Chair.