



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

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador João Vale de Almeida**

**Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations**

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**134. Review of efficiency – Shifting the management paradigm**

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- check against delivery -

Chair, Secretary-General,

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.

I would first like to thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your presentation of the report on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations.

I would also like to thank the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for his presentation of the report of that Committee.

Chair,

We share the analysis of the Secretary-General: the management systems of the United Nations have grown too complex to be able to respond to today's challenges in a flexible and agile manner. Now is the time for the UN to underline its relevance and added value. Now is the time for it to evolve and to respond flexibly to ever more diverse and evolving global challenges, in particular in light of the 2030 Agenda.

This will require an important shift in the UN's culture, strategy, structures and operations. We believe that the current reform agenda has the potential to make the UN system more effective, and the entire UN family more united and coherent.

Secretary-General,

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

We thank you for presenting a comprehensive report on changing the management paradigm of the UN. We support your ambition to reform the UN based on the principles of transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability. We commend you on steps already taken to improve the management of the organization and expect that you take forward reforms under your purview without further delay

We support your vision and believe that reform should lead to a transformation of the Organization to ensure better delivery of programmes, through stronger support structures and smarter decentralization, together with a comprehensive shift in leadership and organizational culture. The reform should give greater responsibility to managers and ensure stronger accountability. It should lead to improved performance based on more flexible and effective human resources management, with respect for absolute gender parity within the Secretariat.

We believe these elements are mutually reinforcing and therefore should be treated as a package.

We understand action is needed on the reform of the budget process. A responsive UN for effective multilateralism requires a planning and budgeting tool that is transparent and agile. One that ensures that resources are allocated in the best possible way to deliver the UN's crucial mandates. One that can flex to meet priority demands. And one where Member States are confident that resources are being spent well. These are the principles that should guide us through our work and to achieve these goals we should be bold and ambitious. A fundamental overhaul of the budget process is long overdue.

In our view, the proposal in front of us aims at addressing these issues. However, there are questions that remain and as member states we need clear answers before we can endorse your vision. In our view the most important questions are:

1. What is the added value of merging current support departments into new entities? How will it affect programme and make the UN more agile and responsive?
2. How will the requested instruments for more budget flexibility influence the UN's responsiveness in a positive way?

3. How do you intend to strengthen the accountability framework of the Organisation? How can we agree on additional flexibilities now while at the same time your report admits that the accountability framework has to be strengthened?

We look forward to receiving answers to these and other questions in due course.

Chair,

We believe that management reform is an important enabler for reform of the peace and security as well as of the development pillars of this Organization. The Secretary General's work in the field of humanitarian action and human rights also cuts across these efforts. It has been 4 months since a retreat on management reform was organized. Many meetings and consultations have taken place and we thank the Secretariat for setting up such an inclusive and transparent process in which the member states of the EU were actively involved. The time has come to take action. We are convinced that under your able guidance and leadership we can collectively rise to meet the importance of this moment and conclude this item successfully. We believe the 5th committee can be part of the solution and should play a key role during the whole reform process. This committee has been entrusted with very important responsibilities and we count on your leadership to deliver a good outcome in the interest of the Organization as a whole.

We are ready to support you in this effort, and we will actively contribute to the reform process, in the spirit of compromise and consensus.

I thank you.