



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

by

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

Allow me first to welcome Mr. Johnston Barkat, United Nations Ombudsman and Assistant Secretary-General, as well as Ms. Alayne Frankson-Wallace, Executive Director of the Office of Administration of Justice, to this committee and thank them for presenting the reports of the Secretary-General. Let me also thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of ACABQ, for introducing the corresponding report of his committee.

We would like to start by reiterating the importance of the timely and simultaneous submission of all required documentation in all official languages. This is key to the much needed inclusivity and transparency that will help us reach a successful negotiated outcome. We therefore strongly regret that the annexes of the report of the Secretary-general have not yet been translated for this very important agenda item and urge the Secretariat to make every effort to provide Member States with appropriate documentation on time.

Mr. Chairman,

The system of the administration of justice is one of the cornerstones of a well-functioning United Nations and we must ensure that the system embodies the

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

principles of independence, transparency and professionalism. In line with this, we welcome the latest reports on this item and the decreasing number of applications and appeals received and pending for the Disputes Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal. We continue to support efforts made to resolve cases without the need for litigation.

In the same vein, we also recognize that the informal resolution of disputes is a crucial element in the administration of justice. It improves access to the justice system while reducing the need for expensive and time-consuming procedures, which benefits both staff and management. Consequently, we are encouraged to see the increased use of informal mechanisms and the expansion of outreach activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking note of the observations and recommendations provided by the report of the ACABQ, we agree with the approach that improvements to the system of justice are to be viewed in the context of wider human and budget resource requirements. We call on the General Assembly to ensure that any changes are justified in terms of real need and clear qualitative outputs in line with the goals for the justice system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman