



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

**by**

**Mr. Jan De Preter**

**Counsellor**

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

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Madame la Présidente,

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des États Membres de l'Union Européenne.

La Turquie, la Macédoine du Nord\*, le Monténégro\*, la Serbie\* et l'Albanie\*, pays candidats, la Bosnie-Herzégovine, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidat potentiel, ainsi que l'Ukraine, la République de Moldavie et la Géorgie se rallient à la présente déclaration.

Madam Chair,

Please let me first thank Mr. Peter Korn, Director of External Audit and Chair of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors, for introducing the Board's report on the financial statements of UN peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. I would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Pedro Guazo, Director of the Finance Division in the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board. Finally, please let me thank Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presenting the recommendations of his Committee.

Madam Chair,

The Member States of the European Union would like to take this opportunity to reiterate their appreciation for the important work carried out by the Board of Auditors. The Board helps drive the UN system to operate in a more transparent and cost-effective way, enabling the organization to implement its mandates more efficiently. Through its substantial reports and recommendations, the Board has made important contributions to the UN over the years.

The EU Member States would like to commend the Board for their extensive analysis of UN peacekeeping activities and are pleased that the Board has issued an unqualified opinion.

We welcome the attention given by the Board to the issue of performance in peacekeeping, including by considering holistically a range of related issues such as contingent-owned equipment, troop and asset management, procurement, and management processes. The EU Member States have been strong supporters of the UN reform and the Action for Peacekeeping Agenda and we align with the Board's opinion that we should keep the momentum up and continue to work towards more efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability for better mandate delivery on the ground. We look forward to discussing the Board's observations and recommendations in the upcoming weeks, including in the cross-cutting resolution.

Notably, we support the Board's call for an updated procurement framework, with particular attention for sustainable procurement practices and simplified and more nimble procedures. We appreciate it reiterating its recommendations with regard to air operations, after its comprehensive audit conducted in 2017. We look forward to continuing constructive dialogue with the rest of the UN membership on these issues.

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\* *La Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, la Serbie et l'Albanie continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.*

We will comment on the details of the findings of the Board of Auditors when discussing individual mission budgets and the observations of ACABQ on the overview report.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, the Member States of the European Union would like to welcome the report and express, once again, their appreciation for the work of the Board.

Thank you, Madam Chair.