

Fifth Committee – 73rd Second Resumed Session
Explanation of Vote
on behalf of the Member States of the European Union
on
Report of Board of Auditors

Madam Chair,

We deeply regret that no consensus could be found on this very important item and that an L document was tabled by G77 and CHINA. BOA is an independent oversight body comprised of member state experts with the highest standards in auditing. Voting on their recommendations has a chilling effect on the UN. It compromises their independence and inhibits the free flowing dialogue between the Secretariat and the Board. Member states should not micromanage the SG's ability to manage the Organization.

We see value in all recommendations made by BOA, also in these related to procurement, RSCE and force generation/peacekeeping performance, all of which fall within its mandate. We understand that certain recommendations should also be discussed in other fora; however, flatly rejecting them is a very bad precedent. On substance, we regret that recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping are flatly rejected by G77 and CHINA, even if these recommendations are in line with policy guidance contained in resolutions from different Main Organs of the UN, as well as the Action 4 Peacekeeping Declaration. This Declaration, endorsed by 151 member states, clearly mentions these issues as a key pillar of effective peacekeeping. Other recommendations which are rejected in the L document were formulated in line with the spirit of UN Reform adopted by member states last of year. They are also aimed at improving overall efficiency and effectiveness of the system. We deeply regret voting on recommendations that pertain to the management of the UN.

Voting in 5C on oversight issues, instead of reverting to agreed language or remaining silent when consensus is not possible, is a dangerous precedent.

For all these reasons, we support the oral amendment introduced by the US. We believe that these amendments help preserve the balance between the mandate of the Board to formulate recommendations on the functioning of the UN as they see fit, while also preserving the role of the General Assembly to formulate policy.

We hope that other member states can join the member states of the EU in voting in favor of the amendments proposed.