



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Madam Chair,

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

We would like to start by thanking Mr. John Levins, Chairman of the 65th United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and Mr. Sudhir Rajkumar, Representative of the Secretary-General for Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

We also wish to thank Ms. Parama Sen, Chair of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors, Mr. Paul Dooley, Acting Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, Mr. David Kanja, Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and Mr. Babou Sene, Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing the respective reports on this agenda item.

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

The Member States of the European Union are aware of the central role of the UNJSPF in the UN System providing retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations and other member organisations of the funds and ensuring there are sufficient assets available to pay for these benefits.

Since it established the Board in 1948 and created the dual governance structure, the General Assembly has remained vigilant to ensure that the Fund is managed in a way that is effective, transparent and accountable to the Fund's members and ultimately to Member States. The EU Member States will continue to take close interest in all issues relating to the efficient operations, regulations and governance of the Fund to ensure that the system can keep delivering in the collective interest of all of the Fund's beneficiaries and members.

The Member States of the European Union note the persisting delays in the receipt of payment by some retirees and beneficiaries of the Fund, with remaining problems in the processing of applications. We call on the Fund to step up action to mitigate the impact on retirees who have been deprived of their benefits and to prevent this from happening in future years, including by ensuring that vacancies are filled in a timely manner.

We also take note of the relevant ACABQ recommendations and hope that the General Assembly can set a clear course of action during this session to prevent further delays and ensure a clear and efficient operation of the Fund's duties.

On the investment side, we note with satisfaction that the total assets of the Fund have increased from over \$54 to \$64 billion and that the Fund has exceeded its real rate of return objective for long-term investments of 3.5%.

Madam Chair,

We look forward to working closely with all partners in a spirit of transparency and constructive cooperation with the aim to reach a successful conclusion of this agenda item.

Thank you Madam Chair.