



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

by

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European Union Delegation to the United Nations

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Cross-cutting issues: SEA/OIOS**

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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 North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank Mr. David Kanja, Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, Ms. Aruna Thanabalasingam, Director, Administrative Law Division, Office of Human Resources, and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presenting their respective reports.

The Member States of the European Union continue to fully support the Secretary-General's zero tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. In this regard, we would like to thank the Special Coordinator, the Victims' Rights Advocate at Headquarters and those in the field for their critical role in carrying out this important work.

Ensuring that vulnerable groups are not harmed by those meant to protect them must remain a top priority for the Organization. We continue to call for zero-impunity for all civilian, military and police personnel whose conduct goes against the fundamental principles and values of the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy, and we look forward to a truly system-wide and integrated response to sexual exploitation and abuse. We would like to see the Organization delivering as one, with a coherent, victim-centred approach. We also welcome the implementation of UN management reform which places accountability of managers and personnel for misconduct at its core.

We remain committed to continue working on the long term with partners, troop contributing countries and stakeholders in a spirit of genuine cooperation on ensuring that prevention measures are strengthened, allegations are duly and timely investigated, justice is served, and victims are provided with the support they deserve.

We urge the Secretary-General to keep this important issue high on his agenda and call on all Member States to support him in this effort.

We would also like to express our support for the work that is carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and look forward to discussing this report in the context of the cross-cutting informal consultations.

Thank you.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.