



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

**by**

**Jan De Preter  
Counsellor**

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

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Main Session  
Fifth Committee**

**Item 138: Pattern of Conferences /  
Item 141: JIU Disabilities**

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Monsieur le Président,

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des États membres de l'Union européenne.

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, et le Liechtenstein, pays de l'AELE membre de l'Espace économique européen, ainsi que l'Ukraine, la République de Moldavie et la Géorgie se rallient à la présente déclaration.

Nous aimerions commencer par remercier Mme Megayla Austin, Présidente du Comité des Conférences, M. Movses Abelian, Secrétaire Général Adjoint au Département de l'Assemblée générale et de la gestion des conférences, ainsi que Mme Julia Maciel, Vice-Présidente du Comité Consultatif pour les Questions Administratives et Budgétaires, pour l'introduction des rapports respectifs sur le point 138. "Plan des conférences". En outre, nous aimerions saluer la présence de l'Inspecteur Gopinathan Achamkulangare du Corps commun d'inspection, ainsi que de Mme Simona Petrova, Directrice et Secrétaire au Conseil des chefs de secrétariat des organismes des Nations Unies pour la coordination, et leur remercier pour leurs présentations.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat aiming at improving and modernizing the conference and language services of the Organization. We welcome in particular the progress made in increasing the use of innovative approaches and modern technologies. We would like to also point out that during the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences in September this year, delegations had an open, fruitful and extensive discussion. Therefore, the EU Member States are ready to endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Conferences.

Turning to the JIU report on "Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system", the EU Member States welcome the extensive analysis undertaken by the Unit and would like to express their appreciation for the quality of the report. We also welcome the JIU recommendations and their implementation as part of the broader UN Disabilities Inclusion Strategy, launched earlier this year.

The European Union has been a champion in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities - with the adoption of the European Accessibility Act this year, the EU complies with one of the key recommendations received from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is one of the most advanced pieces of accessibility legislation on the globe that will be enforceable in the EU in six years' time.

We fully support increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities to UN conferences and meetings, and thus more inclusive decision-making in the UN fora. We look forward to having productive discussions on this matter on the basis of the JIU analysis and recommendations in the Fifth Committee, during the current and upcoming sessions.

Mr. Chair,

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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.*

To conclude, let me reiterate that the EU Member States are committed to working closely with all delegations and partners during the informal consultations on the "Pattern of Conferences" and the JIU report, with the aim of swiftly closing these agenda items.

Thank you.