



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

**by**

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**Closure of Work**

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union. The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, allow me to thank you for your excellent work as Chair of the Fifth Committee during the 74th Session of the General Assembly. Despite the many challenges we faced due to Covid-19 and the consequent remote working conditions, the Committee managed to achieve consensus on all important items, in a spirit of compromise and collective thinking in the interest of the Organization as a whole. We greatly value and appreciate your skillful guidance in leading us through our agenda. We also would like to thank all members of the Bureau for their hard work, as well as the members of the Fifth Committee Secretariat under the leadership of Mr. Lionelito Berridge.

The Member States of the European Union attach great importance to peacekeeping as a core task of the Organization. Our political will to find a negotiated and pragmatic solution for the budgets of all peacekeeping missions demonstrates our ability to act together to meet our responsibilities in the interest of the Organization. We thank all groups and delegation for their flexibility and pragmatism throughout the session. Together, we ensured that peacekeeping continues to be adequately financed. This is crucial in times of continuous uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and its impact on the field.

While we highly regret that no substantive outcome could be achieved on the so-called Cross-cutting resolution, we welcome the adoption of cross-cutting policy language in the individual missions' budgets. We are confident this outcome will offer valuable guidance to the Secretariat on a number of important issues such as environmental protection, sexual exploitation and abuse and mission performance to name a few. We are pleased to see that the Committee also managed to reach consensus on a number of items that are crucial for the

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

effective and efficient functioning of the Organisation, such as closed peacekeeping missions and the adoption of the recommendations of the contingent-owned equipment working group. We underline that the recommendations contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors are crucial tools for enhanced transparency and accountability at the UN.

We look forward to continue to discuss options for a Global Service Delivery Model in line with the vision of the SG's reform agenda during the upcoming Main Session. We are pleased to see we reached a consensus agreement on the issue pertaining to seconded active-duty military and police personnel and we stand ready to continue to engage to find a permanent solution to this long-standing problem that affects Groups and Delegations across the board.

Mr. Chair,

Collectively, we managed to secure good outcomes. I would like to thank all Groups and Delegations for their continued effort and tireless work and commend your Bureau and yourself for your dedication to this important Committee.