



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Organization of Work

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Fifth Committee

First Resumed Session

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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 Turkey, the Republic of North 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, Georgia and Andorra align themselves with this statement.

Señor Presidente,

En primer lugar, permítame agradecerle a usted y a los demás miembros de la Mesa su continuo compromiso con el trabajo de la Quinta Comisión. Contamos con su apoyo y guía para que las negociaciones venideras produzcan resultados significativos. Permítame extender mi agradecimiento a los miembros de la Secretaría, en particular al equipo de la Quinta Comisión, que hacen posible que nuestro trabajo se lleve a cabo en estas inusuales circunstancias.

Me gustaría felicitar a los recién nombrados miembros de la ampliada Comisión Consultiva en Asuntos Administrativos y de Presupuesto y, a través de su Presidente, el Señor Abdallah Bachar Bong, agradecer a la Comisión Consultiva la puntual presentación de informes que son cruciales para nuestro trabajo. Estamos convencidos de que el Presidente de la Comisión Consultiva y sus miembros en conjunto harán todo lo posible para garantizar que la Comisión Consultiva ampliada lleve a cabo su mandato de una manera eficiente y fiable. También me gustaría felicitar a la República de Guinea por asumir la Presidencia del Grupo de 77 y China. Esperamos con ilusión continuar y reforzar, todavía más, la excelente cooperación mantenida con la República Cooperativa de Guyana, a quien agradecemos su colaboración en 2020.

Mr. Chair,

During this session, we will once again consider many important items crucial for the United Nations' efficient and effective functioning. The Member States of the European Union continue to attach great importance to supporting the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts to modernize and reform the UN. We commend the progress achieved so far and we believe that these reforms will lead to a better and more responsive Organisation.

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

We will comment on specific items upon their introduction, but allow me to highlight two reform areas that are of particular importance to the European Union.

1. We remain staunch supporters of more modern and more effective human resource policies at the UN and believe the Secretary-General should use the full extent of his prerogative under the UN Charter in this regard. We have yet to reach an agreement on the HRM package, which now includes a significant number of reports deferred from past sessions. This session offers us - for the first time - the opportunity to focus on items pertaining predominantly to HRM. We will strive to find consensus and to agree on the principles of Human Resources Management reform to meet the current and future needs of both the Organisation and its staff.

2. Conversely, we also welcome the opportunity to continue the work towards a stronger and more robust accountability framework. We see this as a cornerstone of Management Reform, and an integral part of the new Delegation of Authority. The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance plays a key role in ensuring more accountability and we believe that the Organisation needs to continue fostering a culture of ethics and transparency, in order to prevent and address any type of misconduct. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's reports on the progress achieved so far.

Monsieur le Président, chers collègues,

L'Organisation des Nations unies s'appuie sur les travaux de notre Commission pour assurer le financement de ses mandats et garantir son bon fonctionnement. Nous demeurons fermement convaincus que le consensus doit demeurer le credo fondamental de notre Commission. A cette fin, l'Union européenne et ses États membres souhaitent réitérer leur plein soutien à l'amélioration de nos méthodes de travail, afin de mener nos travaux de manière plus efficace et plus productive.

Nous restons conscients des circonstances particulières qui président à la période actuelle, et nous continuerons à nous adapter afin de permettre aux Nations unies de tenir leur promesse. Nous tenons néanmoins à souligner que l'absence persistante de solution d'interprétation à distance pour conduire nos délibérations dans le cadre multilingue adéquat nuit au caractère inclusif de notre travail et, par voie de conséquence, à sa qualité. Nous espérons vivement que ce problème important pourra être résolu dans les meilleurs délais. En tout état de cause, vous pouvez compter sur les États membres de l'UE pour travailler avec vous de manière constructive et ouverte, dans un esprit de coopération, de consensus et de collégialité.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

*** English version ***

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Mr. Chair,

Let me first thank you and the other members of the Bureau for your continued engagement in the work of the Fifth Committee. We count on your support and guidance for the upcoming negotiations to bear meaningful results. Allow me to also thank the members of the Secretariat, in particular the 5C-team for enabling our work under unusual circumstances.

I would like to congratulate the newly appointed members of the expanded Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, through its chair, Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, thank the Advisory Committee for the timely presentation of reports that are crucial for our work. We trust that the ACABQ Chair and its members will collectively do their utmost to ensure that the expanded Advisory Committee delivers on its mandate in an efficient and reliable manner. I would also like to congratulate the Republic of Guinea on assuming the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China. We look forward to continuing and enhancing further the excellent cooperation we had with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, whom we thank for the great collaboration in 2020.

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Mr. Chair, dear Colleagues,

The Organisation relies on the work of this Committee to ensure the funding of its mandates and its proper functioning. We continue to believe that consensus needs to remain the fundamental creed of our Committee. With this in mind, the European Union and its Member States would like to reiterate our full support to the improvement of our working methods, with a view to conducting our proceedings in a more efficient and productive manner.

We remain mindful of the special circumstances under which we carry out our work and we will continue to adapt and adjust in order to enable the UN to deliver on its promise. We nevertheless want to emphasize that the continued lack of solution to allow proper multilingualism in the conduct of our work is detrimental to its inclusiveness and ultimately its quality, and we hope that this important problem can be resolved sooner than later. In any case, all EU Member States will work with you in a spirit of constructive cooperation, consensus and collegiality.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.