



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honor 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 Andorra, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The Member States of the European Union wish to thank you and the members of the Bureau for their efforts to ensure the functioning of our Committee. Allow me to extend these thanks to the 5C-team of the Secretariat, whose work allows our Committee to live up to our responsibility, keep the Organization running, and enable the timely and effective implementation of important mandates. In the current circumstances, more than ever, we would also like to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian women and men who serve the United Nations in its headquarters and in many operations around the world, for their dedication, reactivity and adaptability in the context of the pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

The EU and its Member States remain staunch supporters of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. We remain committed to strengthening peacekeeping commitments along the eight priorities of the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration: political solutions; women, peace and security; protection; safety and security; performance and accountability; peacebuilding and sustaining peace; partnerships; and conduct.

Acutely aware of the shared sense of responsibility peacekeeping entails, the EU and its Member States work closely with the UN and other partners like the African Union on issues related to peace and security at large. We support peacekeeping on the ground, with uniformed personnel, equipment and other capabilities. We also strongly believe in active participation in peacekeeping missions and we commend and thank all Member States that do so.

More than ever, this Committee should be aware of the demanding and challenging conditions under which peacekeepers carry out their work and highlight the importance of safety and security in peacekeeping. We would like to commend the continued hard work, bravery, and commitment of all UN personnel operating in peace operations. We honor those who have sacrificed their lives for peace, and those who continue to risk their lives.

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

Mr. Chair,

In an increasingly complex environment, it is our responsibility to make sure peacekeeping remains fit for success. The Member States of the European Union are dedicated to ensuring that UN peacekeeping operations are adequately financed and sufficiently equipped to carry out their important mandates. In this regard, as the second largest collective contributors to UN peacekeeping budgets, we remain concerned with the challenging financial situation of the UN and the ability for the Organisation to implement all of its mandates. We stand ready to look at ways to improve the liquidity situation beyond the improvements adopted by our Committee two years ago. At the same time, we call upon all Member States to pay their contributions to all peacekeeping missions in full, on time and without conditions, as set out in the United Nations Charter. It is our responsibility to enable long term planning, both for the missions and for the women and men deployed to maintain peace and security under the UN flag.

We know that the difficult circumstances in the field of peacekeeping operations are exacerbated by the continued threat and uncertainty surrounding Covid-19. The reform of the peace and security pillar proved instrumental to foster the resilience and adaptability that proved necessary to face the challenge of the pandemic. We also acknowledge the sheer difficulty to predict the impact of the pandemic going forward, in environments as diverse as the ones in which the United Nations peacekeeping missions operate; and we welcome the lessons learnt from this crisis. At the same time, we call upon our Committee to keep a pragmatic perspective. Recognizing that uncertainties still lie ahead, the Fifth Committee should continue to exercise the full extent of its oversight function but, above all, assure that missions have adequate capacities and resources to pursue the full implementation of their mandates, with enough flexibility to cope with uncertainty, including the necessary IT or investments to continue to adapt and build resilience.

Mr. Chair,

Like in all previous years, the EU and its Member States believe that the resources for peacekeeping operations cannot be considered in isolation from the administrative and budgetary policies that guide those operations. It is our Committee's responsibility to provide the necessary guidance to the Secretariat. We will comment in detail on the cross-cutting aspects of peacekeeping but wanted to reiterate our focus on women, peace and security, gender parity, the environmental footprint of missions, human rights and the continued fight against sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions. We also attach great importance to adequate and cost-efficient financing of peacekeeping missions, and the link to performance and its measurement.

We are confident that under your guidance and that of the Bureau, and thanks to the tireless work of the Secretariat, solutions will be found to tackle the challenges that come with remote working conditions. We need to uphold timelines and deadlines that will allow the Secretariat to implement our resolutions in time. We also need pragmatism and political will from all groups and delegations

to ensure we can adopt adequate and sustainable budgets that allow for effective mandate implementation.

Collectively, we may send a positive message to staff and the troops in the field by concluding our session on time and with consensus. You can count on our support, Mr. Chair, to achieve these ambitious goals and we will work closely with all groups and delegations in a spirit of good faith, transparency and constructive cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.