



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

**Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 168:

"Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country"

United Nations

New York

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Türkiye, Montenegro*, Serbia* and the Republic of Moldova, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

We thank the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for the report on its activities conducted during the reporting period (A/77/26). The Committee is an effective and transparent forum of discussion of issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the UN Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

During the reporting period, the Committee examined a number of important topics, including the security of premises of Missions, issuance of visas, travel regulations issued by the Host Country, and banking services. On the issue of the issuance or renewal of entry visas to representatives of certain Member States, we would like to acknowledge the degree of progress that has been made since June 2021. We stress the importance of the full participation of all delegations in the work of the UN, and the unrestricted right of the persons mentioned in Section 11 of the Headquarters Agreement to enter the United States for the purpose of proceeding to the Headquarters district. We would further like to stress that the Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations apply only to exercise of functions in connection with the United Nations.

Concerning travel regulations, we acknowledge the eGOV system, which facilitates a streamlined and more efficient process for the submission of requests for waivers. We further take into consideration the long-standing position of the Committee that there is no room for the application of measures based on reciprocity in the treatment accorded to permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York.

We note the view of the Host Country and some Member States that the Committee has made significant progress on outstanding issues this year, including on visas, as well as the view and concerns of some other members of the Committee and affected Member States.

Mr. Chair,

For a fourth consecutive year, the Committee engaged into difficult negotiations for the adoption of its Recommendations and Conclusions. We welcome the successful conclusion of this year's consultations and the adoption of a compromise text as a result of the constructive engagement of all the members of the Committee, despite serious challenges. We commend the Chair of the Committee for its continued and hard efforts to reach this result.

The EU and its Member States are strong supporters of an international rules-based order, with the United Nations at its heart. We are concerned that issues related to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement may affect the work and the effective functioning of the United Nations. We therefore continue to encourage the Committee, together with the Secretariat and the Host Country to remain seized on the issues on its agenda and to continue their efforts to resolve them in a spirit of compromise and in full regard for the interest of the United Nations and the integrity of the Headquarters Agreement. In this context, we further encourage all concerned parties to engage bilaterally with the host country in a timely manner to find solutions in an expedient manner.

We also urge the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel to continue actively and seriously engaging, in consultation with the Permanent Missions of the affected Member States, with the authorities of the host country in order to resolve outstanding issues in line with the Headquarters Agreement. We believe that dialogue, in a spirit of good faith and in full regard for the interest of the Organisation, on the full range of issues discussed in the Committee, remains the best avenue for finding acceptable solutions in line with international law.

Thank you.