

Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Mr Chairman,

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General, Ms Sarah Cliffe, for introducing the report of the Secretary General on Civilian Capacity in the aftermath of conflict and the Chair of the ACABQ, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the report of the ACABQ.

Mr Chairman,

As we have said before, the EU Member States strongly support the basic principles of the civilian capacity initiative and welcome the cross-cutting effort embodied by the initiative aimed at improving the United Nations' support to capacity building in countries emerging from conflict. We therefore welcome the latest report of the Secretary General and are grateful for the updated information it provides.

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\* Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

We also note that the report before us will be the last standalone one on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict and that with the disbanding of the standalone team by this summer, the work will be incorporated within existing structures and business processes without requiring extra resources. This is welcome. We would like to acknowledge the progress that has been made and commend the commitment of the Secretary General to ensuring that the promotion of effective civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict and crisis continues to be a priority across the UN system. In this regard, applying the lessons learned and building on the work done over the last two years will we believe, contribute to an effective mainstreaming of this important area of work.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank ASG Sarah Cliffe and her team for their hard work over the last couple of years and their valuable contribution to the UN's efforts to enhance civilian capacity in post-conflict environments. We wish her and her colleagues well in their future roles.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.