



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

**By**

**Mr. Francesco Presutti**

**Minister Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union  
to the United Nations**

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**Fifth Committee**

**Item 134 and 147**

**Proposed Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

**Enterprise Resource Planning Project**

**United Nations**

**New York**

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**– Please check against delivery –**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland<sup>+</sup> and Serbia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Mr Yukio Takasu for introducing the Fifth Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project. I would also like to thank the Director of External Audit and Chair of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors, Mr Hugh O'Farrell, for introducing the Second annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system. Our thanks also go to the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the related report of that Committee.

Mr Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union have been and continue to be strong supporters of Umoja and its potential for business transformation within the United Nations system. We welcome the progress achieved thus far and would like to commend all involved stakeholders, including UN staff members at HQ and in the field, for their commitment and hard work in implementing the Umoja Foundation at the pilot sites and at peacekeeping missions.

We have taken note, Mr Chairman, of the report of the Secretary General on the enterprise resource planning project and the observations made by the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Significant challenges and risks to the project remain and must be addressed if the ERP

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

<sup>+</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

system is to deliver its full scope and functionality and yield the intended and foreseen benefits within the existing timeline and costs. We therefore agree with the findings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Secretary General should closely monitor the design and deployment of the different phases of Umoja - as approved by the General Assembly - and ensure strict management of the implementation timetable and costs of the project. The increase of the current projections of the overall requirements is in fact a worrisome trend.

At the same time governance, oversight and risk management of the project should continue to be adequate and senior management in all departments of the Secretariat should be fully committed to support Umoja; at the same time, process owners should be granted the necessary level of authority to implement changes. In addition, collaboration between the Secretariat and other United Nations entities using the same ERP solution should be further intensified.

Mr Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union share the views of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that an integrated project plan is a fundamental tool for managing project performance. Such a plan is needed to determine what work remains to be done and what the costs implications might be. We encourage the Secretariat to step up its efforts in completing such a plan and a more detailed timetable.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, we believe that Umoja can only succeed if the project will be fully implemented, as approved by the General Assembly last year, in order to protect the investment already made by member states and fully realise the expected benefits of the system.

Rest assured Mr. Chairman, that the Member States of the European Union are looking forward to discussing these issues further with all other member states as well as the Secretariat in the upcoming informal consultations.

Thank you.

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