



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 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank Mr. Yukio Takasu for his presentation, as Under-Secretary-General for Management, on 6 May, as well as his update of today, which provided us with useful information on the financial situation of the United Nations and on how Member States fulfil their obligations under the UN Charter to contribute to the financial expenses of the Organisation.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Underpinning the work of the United Nations is a partnership between the Member States and the Organisation. It remains vital that all parties, Member States and Secretariat, take this partnership seriously, including in the context of both providing and utilising funding in a responsible manner. In this regard, we are pleased to learn that, as at 30 April 2014, the number of Member States that have paid their assessments to the regular budget in full has increased from last year; however, the significant level of outstanding assessments remains a concern. In particular, we wish to note with concern that, as at 30 April 2014, 23 Member States had paid all peacekeeping assessments, though we understand that a few more have paid since that date, bringing the total number to 31, while 32, that is 9 more Member States, had fulfilled this obligation at the same time last year.

Mr. Chairman,

Equally important, the presentation of Mr Takasu reminds us that, while the UN cash position remains healthy, it is imperative that concrete steps are taken, at all levels, to spend more wisely, to deliver in new ways, and to ensure that the Organisation lives within the agreed budget levels. This applies to all activities of the UN, from peacekeeping, to construction, to the Regular Budget. An unceasing

effort to find new and creative ways to work is essential to achieve more effective delivery of mandates and sustainable use of resources.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of the overall financial situation of the organisation, the Member States of the European Union, which contribute nearly 35 per cent of the regular budget, exceeding by far their GNI share, and approximately 37 per cent of the UN peacekeeping budgets, also reiterate the importance of a more balanced way to share the budgetary responsibilities of the Organisation. Only a more equitable sharing of financial responsibilities among UN Member States according to their actual capacity to pay can secure a sustainable financing architecture for the UN system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.