



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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- As delivered -

Madam Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, align themselves with this statement.*

At the outset let me thank you and your Bureau for preparing this substantial programme of work. Let me also thank the Secretariat of the Committee, Sharon Van Buerle's team, as well as all other members of the Secretariat and ACABQ for all the work done in preparation of this very important session.

The Member States of the European Union have always attached great importance to peacekeeping as a core task of the Organisation and will continue to do the necessary to ensure that UN peacekeeping is effective and serves the need of maintaining peace and security amid complex challenges and a rapidly changing international environment

We recognise the demanding conditions in which peacekeepers carry out their work, we are deeply appreciative of the sacrifices they make and commend their commitment. We also pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives while serving in a peacekeeping mission.

As the largest collective financial contributors to peacekeeping, the Member States of the European Union attach great importance to the peacekeeping partnership and effective collaboration between all member states as contributors to UN Peacekeeping and the Secretariat itself. Our objective this session is to closely examine the budgets of all the peacekeeping missions, as well as the support functions, with a view to providing them with adequate financing and guidance to carry out their mandates.

We note with concern that for several years now, we have been unable to conclude the session on time. We do believe that concluding our proceedings within the allocated time is a collective objective and we call upon all groups and delegations to be as pragmatic as possible in submitting questions and abiding by deadlines imposed.

We are committed to working closely with all partners in a spirit of good faith, openness, transparency and constructive cooperation with the aim of reaching decisions and successfully conclude this Second Resumed Session.

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

We greatly value your skilful guidance and that of the Bureau and the Secretariat in leading us through the agenda with the aim of finishing this session on time, just as we managed to do in our First Resumed Session, and with good results. Nonetheless, should that not be the case and if the Committee were forced to continue its deliberations in June this must be during normal working hours, outside weekends and with appropriate conference services and the essential presence and support of the Fifth Committee Secretariat.

We reiterate our plea to find a lasting structural solution for future sessions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.