



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

by

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Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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Colombia**

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- Check against delivery -

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the European Union on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia.

The Candidate Countries 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 the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank [Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary General – Controller, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General and, respectively, the report of the Advisory Committee on this matter.]

As we recently marked the one year anniversary of the signing and entry into force of the Peace Agreement reached between the Government of Colombia and Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC-EP), we have to celebrate the progress made so far on the path to build lasting and durable peace in Colombia. The end of decades-long armed conflict is a historical step for Colombia. We have great appreciation for the excellent work done by the first UN mission in Colombia through the implementation of the peace agreement's tripartite mechanism.

Mr. Chair,

The EU and its MS have fully supported the peace process in Colombia from the beginning and we remain strongly committed to contributing meaningfully to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. This includes our full support for the mandate and functioning of the second United

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

Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. This mission will play a crucial role in verifying the implementation by the parties of the process of political, economic and social reincorporation of the FARC-EP, as well as the implementation of security guarantees.

At this very critical stage of the peace process, Colombia needs and deserves continued support of the international community. In that respect, the UN commitment and presence on the ground remains a vital component for progress.

Mr. Chair,

The EU is supporting peacebuilding in Colombia with an overall package of nearly 600 million euros, through the EU Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia established in December 2016, as well as potential loans from the European Investment Bank. This is a clear sign of our continued determination to support lasting peace in the country.

Colombia is one of the EU's closest partners in Latin America and we remain fully committed to this partnership, including through our cooperation with the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.