Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

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*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General, Mr Yukio Takasu, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on information and communications technology in the United Nations. I would also like to thank 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 welcome the efforts made by ASG Riazi and the Office of Information and Communications Technology to revisit the historical deficiencies of the United Nations Information Communications Technology environment as highlighted by the Board of Auditors report, A/67/651, and proposing a revised ICT approach to improve the infrastructure, information and system security and ICT services across the Organisation over the next five years and beyond.

We, the Member States of the European Union, believe that this report represents a good basis from which to continue the modernization of the United Nations system and address the fragmentation in the IT environment across the Organisation in conjunction with other on-going business transformation and change management initiatives, including the activities required to support Umoja implementation and mainstreaming.

It is encouraging that the report on Information and Communications Technology in the UN recognises the need for a fundamental shift in the approach to and structure of ICT environment across the Organisation to support the goals of the United Nations. The implementation of any strong ICT strategy should lead to both qualitative and quantitative benefits from the harmonisation of the ICT

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environment to enable greater and increasingly needed information security, data sharing and value for money.

Indeed, information security is facing ever-increasing risks and with a deeply fragmented infrastructure and little oversight of the current system it is imperative that the UN develops streamlined, reliable and efficient ICT services to allow it to deliver its mandates efficiently, effectively and transparently.

We agree with the ACABQ that strong central leadership will be critical for the establishment and strict enforcement of ICT policies and standards. We would therefore like to stress the importance of the post of Chief Information Technology Officer who is responsible for the overall direction and performance of ICT activities of the Organisation.

Like the ACABQ, we recall the importance of having an accurate and comprehensive indication of the resources that will be needed to implement the proposals, in order to make a decision on the refined approach which will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget 2016-2017.

Finally Mr Chairman, the Member States of the European Union stand ready to engage constructively on this important agenda item during the course of negotiations.