



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 former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Serbia*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Armenia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we would like to thank the Executive Director of the Office of the Administration of Justice, Ms. Linda Taylor for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on Administration of Justice, as well as the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Ombudsman, Mr. Johnston Barkat, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of that office. I would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report of that Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Five years ago, on 1 July 2009, a new system of administration of justice became effective for United Nations staff. This was an important achievement for an Organisation that is known for its work in setting, promoting and developing international norms. The EU Member States, which have consistently given the highest priority to the effective functioning of an administration of justice system at the United Nations, commend the progress made since 2009 towards the full implementation of this ambitious, and essential, reform.

During this session, after five years of operation of the system, we should decide on a proposal from the Secretary-General for conducting an interim independent assessment of the system. This will be an important opportunity to analyse whether the objectives that were set out by the General Assembly are being achieved, including in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and in

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

what way the system might be further improved for the benefit of both the Secretary-General and UN staff.

While we welcome the revised proposal of the Secretary-General on the assessment, we also support the ACABQ's observations and recommendations in this regard. In particular, we believe it is important that the panel's terms of reference should include a review of the evolution and application of the jurisprudence of the Tribunals, as well as a benchmarking of the development of jurisprudence against the best examples and practices of other comparable internal justice systems. We also wish to stress the importance of a thorough analysis of the working methods of the Tribunals under the statutes and the rules of procedure, taking into account all relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

As the General Assembly recognised in resolution 68/254, effective performance management can greatly contribute to avoiding conflict in the workplace. As can be seen from the various reports before us, there is a direct correlation between poor or ineffective performance management and the high caseload being dealt with by the administration of justice system. We therefore take this opportunity to note that improving performance management must become and remain a major area of focus for the Secretary-General. We look forward to elaborating on this in the context of our forthcoming discussions on human resources management.

Mr. Chairman,

In the course of our deliberations, we will address other specific issues raised in the Secretary-General's report, including questions on financing and staffing. We look forward to an open and constructive discussion of all these matters in the forthcoming informal consultations.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.