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Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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138. Improving the financial situation of the UN

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union.

At the outset, let me thank Ms Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General for Management, for her presentation of May 11th on the Financial Situation of the UN.

The Member States of the European Union attach great importance to promoting sound financial management at the UN. The good financial health of the UN underpins its capacity to fulfil its mandates. Ensuring this constitutes a shared responsibility and a partnership between the Member States and the Organisation.

Mister Chair,

We note with concern that the level of unpaid assessed contributions for the regular budget as of 30 April 2018 is higher than last year. We also note with great concern that a small number of Member States are responsible for a large proportion of this amount. Unpaid assessments continue to impact negatively on the financial health of the UN. We reiterate the importance of all Member States paying their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

As in recent years, in light of monthly patterns the Secretariat predicts that cash levels will decline as the year progresses. The full and timely payment of assessed contributions in the coming months is critical in this regard. We call on those Member States which have unpaid assessments to address this as a priority.

Mister Chair,

With regard to peacekeeping assessments, we note that more Member States have paid their assessments in full since the cut-off date of 30 April 2018. However, the amount of outstanding payments remains high at \$2.3 billion. Once again, we encourage Member States to pay their assessments in full and without conditions in the coming months in order to ensure that cash flows remain at a satisfactory level and that peacekeeping operations have the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates.

Mister Chair,

The Member States of the European Union combined are currently contributing more than 30% of assessed contributions to the UN Regular budget and the peacekeeping mission budgets, and they believe that the UN must ensure full accountability for the use of resources. It should strive to live within agreed budget levels rather than reverting to Member States during a budget cycle with revised estimates, unless all other options have first been exhausted, in line with current budget standards, including the support account. For this reason, we are

supportive of the Secretary-General's proposals on management reform which we expect will lead to more transparency and better accountability for the Organisation.

The Member States of the European Union are committed to providing the Organisation with the necessary resources to fulfill its mandates, while firmly believing that there is substantial room for improvement in the way the UN manages those resources in order to ensure the most effective, efficient and transparent use of scarce resources. We support adopting approaches aimed at further savings and efficiencies, meaningful reprioritization of activity and the delivery of results.

Thank you, Mister Chair.