



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

**Jan de Preter
Counsellor**

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**72nd Session of the General Assembly
First Resumed Session
Fifth Committee**

Rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

United Nations

New York

27 March 2018

- 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 the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

and Georgia

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank Mr. Rick Martin, Director of the Field Budget and Finance Division, Department of Field Support, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the revised survey to establish the base rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, and Mr. Babou Sene, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the Committee's report.

Mr Chairman,

When we adopted GA resolution 67/261 on the Report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, we saw this agreement as an important step for peacekeeping and looked forward to its implementation in the firm belief that this serves the best interests of the UN, of UN peacekeeping and also of all the Member States. At the outset we would like to pay tribute to all women and men in the world who are proudly serving under the UN. We pay particular duty to those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of world peace.

We remain committed to the implementation of the SAG recommendations as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 67/261. The revised survey process is a key aspect of the agreed follow-up process. As strong supporters of evidence-based decision making, we welcome the work that has been done and would like to thank the Secretariat for all their hard work in improving the quality and reliability of the data sets presented. We would especially like to thank the ten Member States that participated in the survey for their commitment and positive engagement in the process, and for ensuring that the survey was completed in full and on time.

Mr. Chairman, the world is evolving rapidly and the UN should adapt quickly to new challenges and complex situations on the ground. Peacekeeping is changing and we commend the Secretary General and the senior management team of the UN for recognizing this reality. We continue to support the different UN reforms that make this organization more responsive and effective, with better service delivery to the field and a robust framework for the political action that underpins all our efforts in the field.

The instruments we have at our disposal should adapt accordingly: we attach great importance to the performance of missions, including troop performance and effective deployment. We look forward to the development of a performance policy framework for peacekeeping missions' performance and discussing it with the Secretariat and all stakeholders. We believe contingent

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

owned equipment should be up-to-date. We have zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. We believe the gender balance in peacekeeping can be improved.

We also recognize that peacekeeping is becoming increasingly dangerous with UN missions being targeted. The Santos Cruz report has clearly identified pitfalls and areas for progress, and we need to collectively ensure that we give full support to the Organization to overcome the challenges ahead.

In a world where peacekeepers are targeted specifically for being on the ground under our collective wills, there is only room for professionalism. As you know, accountability and transparency are principles we hold dear. We also believe that there is a strong case for enhanced performance evaluation. We welcome the development of a clear and transparent methodology to better measure performance alongside the policy framework, as we believe this is in the interest of the safety and security of the troops as well as in the interest of better mandate implementation.

Mr Chairman,

We are looking forward to discussing this issue, cognizant of its sensitivity, and where we understand that concerns can be expressed by many TCCs. As always, you can rely on the EU Member States to work towards a constructive outcome that preserves and consolidates the partnership for peace.

The Member States of the European Union have a specific interest in supporting strong and effective UN peacekeeping: almost all Member States of the EU are not only important financial contributors but also support peacekeeping on the ground, both with uniformed personnel and other capabilities. We are therefore very conscious of the shared sense of responsibility, but also of the clear benefits that result from active participation in peacekeeping.

Mister Chair,

A political and operational commitment to peacekeeping makes demands of us all to ensure we make the most effective contribution possible. In doing so, we must bear in mind the possibly heavy budget implications at stake, in a context of resource scarcity. Our goal, ultimately, remains to maintain and reinforce the quality and the sustainability of UN peacekeeping.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we look forward to engaging constructively with all colleagues and ultimately to a sustainable, predictable and affordable agreement on this important and sensitive issue.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.