



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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Closure of work of the Fifth Committee

- As delivered -

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU.

Let me first congratulate you and members of the Bureau for the successful management of the session. Let me also thank all delegations and groups for their constructive approach. Finally, let me thank all Secretariat members involved, in particular the 5th Committee secretariat for their hard work.

Madam Chair, we managed to conclude all items on time. We also managed to adequately finance the UN Mission for the Hodeida Mechanism in Yemen. However, we regret that the 5th Committee could not grant the SG's request on the Syria Monitoring Mechanism in full. This decision should in no way be interpreted as lack of support for the UN monitoring mechanism as mandated by the UNSC. We regret that the debate got unnecessarily politicized by a small group of delegations. We call for all delegations to ensure that the United Nations have the means to continue cross-border humanitarian operations throughout all agreed border crossings, including Jordan, and in accordance with UNSC resolution 2449 adopted in December 2018. In 2019, an estimated 11.7 million people will require humanitarian assistance across Syria. Around 35% of the overall humanitarian response is still delivered through the cross-border operations. We stress the continued importance of the UN being able to utilize the most direct routes to get Syrians the live-saving supplies they need, particularly in light of the ongoing attempts by the Syrian authorities to politicize and obstruct humanitarian assistance, and until a political solution stems the suffering.

Madam Chair,

We continue to support the SG in his efforts to reform and modernize the Organization. In that regard, allow me to make 3 remarks:

1. The Member States of the EU continue believe that GSDM remains an important element of the SG's reform agenda. We reiterate the need to maintain momentum

across the board on the range of management reform initiatives and their implementation. In that regard we look forward to discussing the item during the main session of the 74th General Assembly.

2. We continue to support the SG in his efforts to drive a more strategic approach to procurement in the UN. The Member States of the EU view sustainable procurement as an important means of delivering best value for the Organization and of promoting wide geographical market access, in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
3. We continue attach great importance to a strong accountability framework at the UN and its effective implementation under the new management paradigm. We therefore welcome the consensus that was reached on this item.

Finally, Madam Chair, we would like to underline once again that the effective functioning of the 5th Committee relies on a partnership between the Committee, the Secretariat and ACABQ. Timely documentation is crucial. As is accurate and technical information. We support the chair of the ACABQ in his efforts to continue to ensure that the Advisory Committee will continue to provide the Committee with technical expertise, in due time and with absolute neutrality.