



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

by

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Mr. Chair,

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

At the outset, we would like thank you, all the members of the Bureau, and all facilitators for guiding us through our deliberations, despite the difficulties we faced in negotiating remotely.

A closing meeting this late is unprecedented, and we are mindful of the intense pressure that results on the Organization itself, and particularly on its personnel. Let me therefore express our utmost gratitude to the members of the Fifth Committee Secretariat and to all the devoted members of the Organization, whose contribution has been instrumental in the success of this session.

Mr. Chair,

The Member States of the European Union are pleased that we complied with our responsibility and adopted a budget for 2021 on time, so the Organisation can operate without discontinuity, continue to deliver on its mandates and serve the people who need the United Nations, now more than ever.

We continue to be vigilant for adequate financing of all mandates across all pillars of the UN, notably so Human Rights and Development, considering that none of them can be fully achieved without achieving the others. We believe that our assumptions and deliberations should always be based on resourcing requests made by the Secretary-General, to avoid arbitrary decisions, further politicization and fragmentation of the budget.

Halfway through the trial period, we welcome this second annual budget. The shorter budget cycle makes the UN budget more effective, efficient and agile. It has already improved the responsiveness of the United Nations to the current pandemic, and we commend the work and dedication of all the staff in the Organisation, despite these challenges.

Mr. Chair,

The Member States of the European Union would like to reiterate our unwavering support for the reforms of the United Nations and continue to attach great importance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We regret that the circumstances under which we negotiated could not allow for in-depth exchange in the Membership and impeded us from confirm our unequivocal continued support to the vision of the Secretary-General. Allow us, however, to welcome the efforts and progress made in the implementation of the management reform and that of the peace and security pillar.

We would also like to reiterate our strong commitment to reaching decisions by consensus. The consensus reached on the programme planning and sequencing resolutions demonstrate that this committee has the capacity to find agreement on technical issues with important political ramifications. We continue to believe that consensus needs to remain the fundamental creed of our committee. It requires that each of us engage in a spirit of good faith, collegiality and constructive cooperation to find middle-ground positions we can all join and support, even when they do not correspond to our preferred choices.

In closing, the European Union and its member States reaffirm our commitment to serve the core values and principles of the Organization and to continue to work for their realization with you and all members of the Fifth Committee in a spirit of constructive cooperation, consensus and collegiality.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.