



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

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Special Political Missions

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Mr. Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

I would first like to thank Ms. Vivian Van de Perre, Acting Director of the Field Operations Finance Division, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, the European Union and its Member States would like to reiterate their appreciation for the important work carried out by the 38 Special Political Missions around the world. These Missions are a fundamental tool for our Organization to advance conflict prevention, nurture peacemaking, and promote peacebuilding.

Special Political Missions are uniquely positioned to foster a comprehensive and integrated approach to deliver each of the three pillars of the United Nations and break down silos. They are ideally positioned to work with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, peace-, development-, humanitarian-, and human rights partners, and civil society. Through their multidimensional approach, they help strengthening the consistent cross-pillar coordination envisioned by the Secretary-General in the alignment of the three reform streams. In that regard, the Member States of the European Union welcome the positive results in system-wide coherence and integration, the increasing cooperation across pillars and closer work with the Resident Coordinator system as illustrated by the double- or triple-hatted resident coordinators in several missions.

The European Union and its Member States also wish to commend the key role played by Special Political Missions in the COVID-19 pandemic: the missions not only maintained business continuity but they also found new ways to continue to deliver, to support dialogue and to carry out preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. We would like to pay tribute to the United Nations personnel serving in Special Political Missions across the world and applaud their commitment, as well as their resilience under often difficult conditions, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

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

The Member States of the European Union wish to reiterate and emphasize that our deliberations on Special Political Missions address the implementation of mandates decided by Security Council resolutions. These resolutions set out the framework of the Missions' mandates and the United Nations' parameters on which political processes are based. Our responsibility is to fund those mandates.

To that end, the Member States of the European Union remain strongly committed to ensuring that Special Political Missions have adequate capacities and sufficient resources to pursue the full implementation of their mandates. We will also hold the missions accountable for the use of these resources and expect them to deliver effectively. In that sense, we welcome the agility offered by the annual format of the budget, which allows the Secretary-General to present in a timely fashion the necessary adjustments to the resources of missions operating in very volatile environments. We would like to commend the efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in carrying out all its mandates, including its critical role in international aid coordination, despite the current challenges it faces.

Mr. Chair,

On the issue of funding and backstopping for Special Political Missions, a topic outstanding on our programme of work since our 66th session, we would like to recall that eight years ago, the Fifth Committee came close to an agreement on measures to improve the backstopping of the missions. We remain committed to work constructively and on the basis of consensus towards further improvement. We note however that the context has changed significantly with the annual budget, the new management paradigm, the system of delegation of authority, and the rationalization of policy and support functions between the newly created Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support. As a result, many of the recommendations outlined in the report of the Secretary-General A/66/340 and the corresponding ACABQ report (A/66/7/Add21) are now outdated. We believe that these reports should be re-evaluated in light of the reviews on management reform and the reform of the budget process.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, we look forward to working closely and engaging constructively with all groups and delegations during the upcoming negotiations in order to reach a timely conclusion of this important agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.