



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Organization of work

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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 Turkey, 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 Andorra, Georgia the Republic of Moldova, Monaco and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

As we open our 76th session, let me begin by congratulating you upon your election as Chair of the Fifth Committee. We would also like to congratulate all newly appointed members of the Bureau who will work with you towards shepherding our discussions. We are confident that, with your experience and under your leadership, our important negotiations throughout this session will reach a fruitful and timely conclusion.

We would like to thank the members of the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee, for their unwavering support in facilitating our work in extraordinary circumstances. Allow me to extend our gratitude to the Secretariat officials for their continued dedication and support to our Committee, and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ): their contribution remains crucial for the successful conclusion of our programme of work.

Mr. Chair,

We will deliver statements, as necessary, when individual items are introduced on our agenda. We would like however to make the following overarching comments:

1. The Member States of the European Union continue to support the Secretary-General's efforts towards an effective implementation of UN reforms. The need for an effective multilateral governance and a United Nations fit to face them is more acute than ever. To that end, we remain committed to work collectively for a strengthened and efficient United Nations, nimble, agile, orientated towards the delivery on the field and to people in need.

2. We call upon all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time. We remain deeply concerned that the liquidity situation of the United Nations continues to undermine delivery of mandates. The temporary solutions introduced so far have only alleviated the consequences of this crisis, and they corner the Organization into systemic underperformance. The Member States of the European Union call upon the Committee to rise up to this challenge. We will continue to advocate for sustainable solutions to this crisis.

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

3. Our Committee will negotiate the scales of assessments for the next three years. We would like to stress the importance to uphold the principles of solidarity and capacity to pay that underpin the scales. While acknowledging the importance of these discussions, we would like to call upon all groups and delegations to engage constructively on all agenda items. The main duty of our committee remains to ensure adequate funding and proper functioning of the Organization, so that it can pursue the full implementation of the mandates given by Member States. At the same time, it is crucial that these resources be used with efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and with a focus on results. In this regard, we acknowledge the proposal of certain delegations to duplicate CPC discussions in the main committees of the General Assembly. While this is a matter for the committees to decide, this should not undermine the CPC, affect consensus-based decision on planning, or hamper our ability to negotiate and adopt the 2022 budget in a timely fashion, which remains our fundamental responsibility this session.

Mr. Chair,

The Organization has faced unprecedented challenges over the past year. These exceptional circumstances have put our working methods through the test and we believe it is essential to uphold some key principles, as guidelines to our proceedings.

First, and foremost, we would like to insist on our shared responsibility to conclude our programme of work in a timely fashion. Working outside normal conference hours, during weekends or over nights, and extending the timeline of the session should be the exception and not the norm. We therefore call upon the pragmatism and political will of all groups and delegations and we rely on your guidance, Mr. Chair, to uphold timelines and deadlines, in order to finish ontime and allow the Secretariat to implement our resolutions. To this end, and in an effort to tangibly contribute to using the Committee's time as efficiently and effectively as possible, and alleviate the ever-increasing burden on the Secretariat for responding to questions, the Member States of the European Union commit to rationalize the number of questions asked by the EU on the different agenda items, with the hope that other groups and delegations will follow suit.

We reiterate that all documents should be submitted ontime and in all official languages. We understand the constraints resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic and the strain on interpretation and translation resources, whose work we want to commend today. Still, we also strongly believe that multilingualism is key to the much-needed inclusivity and transparency that will help us reach a successful negotiated outcome.

We would also like to reiterate our strong commitment to reaching decisions by consensus. Our Committee has proven time-and-again its 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 that we can all join and support, even when they do not correspond to our preferred choices. At the same time, this requires that each of us refrains from politicizing the issues at hand, in order to responsibly fulfil the mandate we have as the administrative and budgetary Committee of the Organization.

In closing, Mr. Chair, the Member States of the European Union endeavor to work constructively with you and every group and delegation. Despite the heavy agenda before us, we are confident that under your stewardship Mr. Chair, we can conclude our negotiations on time and by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.