



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

Mr. Thibault CAMELLI

Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Organization of work

76th Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Second Resumed Session

3 May 2022

Mr. Chair,

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

Allow me to start by paying tribute to the continued hard work, bravery, and commitment of all UN personnel, uniformed and civilian, who serve the United Nations in its headquarters and in many operations around the world. We honor those who have sacrificed their lives for peace, and commend those who continue to risk their lives. In the current circumstances, their dedication, despite the many challenges they face, allows our Organization to continue to be a beacon of peace.

As we are starting a session dedicated to peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, we would like to reiterate that we condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine. It is a blatant violation of international law, of the UN Charter and of everything this Organization stands for. In this context, it is of utmost importance our Committee carries out its duty, for all peace keeping and building mandates around the world.

Mr. Chair,

The European Union and its Member States remain staunch supporters of the UN peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts. Acutely aware of the shared responsibility peacekeeping and peacebuilding entail, we work closely with the United Nations and other partners, like the African Union, on issues related to peace and security at large.

In an increasingly complex environment, we believe it is our responsibility to make sure peacekeeping remains fit for success. To that end, we are dedicated to ensuring that UN peacekeeping operations are well financed, sufficiently staffed, and adequately equipped to carry out their important mandates. We also attach great importance to performance and the cost-efficient conduct of peacekeeping missions.

As the second largest collective contributors to UN peacekeeping budgets, we welcome progress achieved in managing the liquidity situation of the peacekeeping operations, but remain concerned we are still unable to liquidate the closed peacekeeping operations. As everyone knows, this boils down to finally taking action to improve the liquidity situation of the regular budget, and Member States of the European Union stand ready to honor their responsibility to do so without further ado. At the same time, it is our responsibility to enable long term planning, both for the missions and for the women and men deployed to maintain peace and security under the UN flag, and we call upon all Member States to pay their contributions to all peacekeeping missions – in full, on time and without conditions, as set out in the United Nations Charter.

We strongly believe in active participation in peacekeeping missions and we do our part, by supporting peacekeeping on the ground, and providing uniformed personnel, equipment and other

capabilities. We commend other Member States that do so, and welcome the possibility this year to reassess the rate of reimbursement for the contribution of troops.

Mr. Chair,

The European Union and its Member States continue to believe that the resources for peacekeeping operations cannot be considered in isolation from the administrative and budgetary policies that help the Secretariat carry out those operations. It is our Committee's responsibility to provide the necessary guidance to the Secretariat.

On process, we strongly believe policy discussions belong in "crosscutting", and we will spare no efforts to adopting a crosscutting resolution by consensus this year, despite having failed to achieve this outcome for the past 5 years. The way our Committee has covered these important issues in the last two years in particular, linking them with budget numbers discussion, is not desirable nor sustainable, and we call for a more inclusive and meaningful process of work. Therefore, we intend to distinguish both topics more clearly: we will not introduce cross-cutting policy paragraphs in the budget resolutions of individual peacekeeping operations, and we invite all our partners to do the same, looking forward to engaging with them on the peacekeeping policy under crosscutting.

On substance, we would like to reiterate here our commitment to strengthening peacekeeping along the eight priorities of the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration. Across these priorities, we will also pay particular attention to the important operational issues of gender parity, environmental footprint of missions, human rights and the continued fight against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Lastly, as some missions are drawing down, we are also cognizant of efforts to build sustainable peace, through a continuum that relies both on economic development and on the protection of human rights. In this regard, we look forward to discussing modalities to ensure more predictable and sustainable funding for the peacebuilding fund.

Mr. Chair,

As we resume in-person meetings, we will look for your guidance and that of the Bureau, to make the most of new working methods. While we welcome the possibility to engage in-person on these important topics, we would like to reiterate the necessity to draw lessons from the past two-years: working remotely did also bring some improvements, notably in terms of efficiency, that we should leverage in order to continue to improve our working methods. The European Union and its Member States stand ready to fully engage during working hours, but also call for the preservation of work/life balance. No one can be eager, let alone take pride, to spend nightly hours in the UN basement.

We need to uphold timelines and deadlines that will allow the Secretariat to implement our resolutions in time. We also need pragmatism and political will from all groups and delegations to

ensure we can adopt adequate and sustainable budgets that allow for effective mandate implementation. Collectively, we may send a positive message to staff and the troops in the field by concluding our session on time and with consensus. You can count on our support, Mr. Chair, to achieve these ambitious goals and we will work closely with all groups and delegations in a spirit of good faith, transparency and constructive cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.