



Statement on behalf of the Member States of the European Union

By

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**69th Session of the General Assembly
Second Resumed Session
Fifth Committee**

Conclusion of the Second Resumed Session

United Nations

New York

24 June 2015

- As delivered -

Mr. Chairman,

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

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Bureau and the Secretary of the Committee and her team, as well as other members of the Secretariat who have provided assistance to the Committee during this session, for their invaluable support. It is good to have Under Secretary General Khare and the Chair of the ACABQ with us. We also welcome the presence and remarks of the Chef de Cabinet at the start of our meeting today. Let me also reiterate that the Member States of the European Union remain committed to peacekeeping, a flagship activity of the United Nations. We highly value the partnership between the UN Secretariat, troop contributing and host countries, and financial contributors that make UN peacekeeping unique.

We are glad to see that, as a result of joint efforts and intensive negotiations, the General Assembly managed to reach consensus on all outstanding issues on the agenda of the second resumed session of the Committee. The outcome of our intense negotiations ensures, first and foremost, that peacekeeping missions are provided with the necessary financial resources to continue their operations. This is of course of primary importance for our group, as indeed it is for all of us. In that regard, we are also pleased that the outcome of our deliberations was guided by the need to apply strict budgetary discipline to ensure that resources are used effectively, efficiently and in an accountable and transparent manner. We regret, however, that lengthy negotiations which were so critical to reaching a consensus have again impeded the prompt issuance of the draft resolutions in all official languages of the United Nations as per the General Assembly Rules of Procedure and relevant resolutions on Multilingualism and Pattern of conferences. We look forward to improving the way we work to guarantee due diligence on budgetary matters while also ensuring that other General Assembly mandates are fully observed.

Mr. Chairman,

Another major accomplishment of this session was the successful conclusion of a resolution on peacekeeping cross-cutting issues, three years since our last resolution on this issue. We achieved this result thanks to a shared sense of the importance of engaging constructively and pragmatically in discussions, to provide guidance to the Secretary-General on the range of overarching themes in the crosscutting context, which are important for the effective operation of peacekeeping missions. Amongst other things, our resolution today sends a strong signal on the joint determination of the Member States and the Secretary-General of this Organisation to undertake all relevant actions within our respective areas of competence to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Let me recall once again the highest priority that EU

Member States accord to the full implementation of the United Nations policy of zero-tolerance in this matter.

Nor should we overlook the successful outcome of our negotiations on the two important Regular Budget items on our agenda: the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the additional resources required for Special Political Missions.

To conclude, we would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your stewardship, patience and hard work during this session and, of course, that of the outgoing Bureau. I would also like to thank all those who are leaving this year for their hard work, which is what makes the Fifth Committee special.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.