



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by

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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

***at the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the
Strengthening of the Role of the Organization***

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— CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY —

Mr./Madam Chair,

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

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

We congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We also thank the staff of the Secretariat for the assistance in preparing this meeting.

Mr./Madam Chair,

[Maintenance of international peace and security]

When they created the United Nations with the Charter at its heart, the peoples of the United Nations were determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. They were determined to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours. That is why, the maintenance of international peace and security became one of the main purposes of the United Nations.

In the furtherance of these purposes, the EU and its Member States fully support the United Nations in the enhancement of its role to promote and maintain international peace and security. In that regard, allows us to recall some fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter that are, unfortunately, at times ignored in the conduct of international affairs.

All States are equal under international law regardless of their military and economic power. Every sovereign State, irrespective of its size, military power, level of economic development or geographic location, has the right to co-exist in peace and free from outside interference and pressure.

States are obliged to respect the territorial integrity of other States and are under a duty not to intervene in other States' internal affairs. They must refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter against the territorial integrity, political independence or

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

the unity of any State. The principle of territorial integrity protects the continuing existence of a State within its borders. Any unilateral alteration of territory by forceful means is a violation of this principle.

The Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. This is one of the clearest principles of international law that all States must observe. As further developed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the UN Charter of 1970, a war of aggression constitutes a crime against the peace, for which there is responsibility under international law. Every State has the duty to refrain from organizing or encouraging the organization of irregular forces or armed bands including mercenaries, for incursion into the territory of another State.

Lastly, States shall settle their disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered. In that connection, we consider that the subtopic of this year - ‘Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of judicial settlement’ – is very topical. We look forward to our fruitful exchanges.

These principles are neither negotiable nor subject to revision or re-interpretation. All members of the United Nations should abide by and promote international law and should not stay indifferent when fundamental principles of international law are violated. Staying indifferent when fundamental principles of international law are violated in one part of the world sets a precedent for violations in other parts of the world.

Mr./Madam Chair,

When international peace and security is threatened one cannot ignore the tools available to restore them. Sanctions, undoubtedly, are part of the toolbox. They must be designed and implemented in full compliance with international law, in particular international refugee law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Sanctions procedures must be fair and clear and respect the rights of listed persons, including due process rights. In this regard, we underline the important role of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions Committee and the need for the UN Security Council to enhance its due process standards in the design and implementation of all sanctions regimes. We congratulate Mr. Richard Malanjum on his

appointment as Ombudsperson. If UN sanctions do not comply with due process standards their effectiveness is put at risk at the national and regional level. It is key that sanctions are fully implemented by all Members in order to avoid fragmented implementation.

Mr./Madam Chair,

[Ghana proposal]

We value the contribution made by regional arrangements or agencies to the maintenance of international peace and security. We see them as usefully complementing the work of the Organization provided that such arrangements or agencies are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. In that regard, we thank Ghana for its proposal. We remain ready to contribute to the discussion and to consider how the proposal could be pursued as long as this work does not duplicate or prejudge discussions in other fora, in particular with regard to the financing of peacekeeping operations.

[Working methods of the Special Committee]

Finally, Mr./Madam Chair, as said on previous occasions, there is scope to streamline the work and working methods of the Special Committee to deliver on its 2006 decision. Resources and time should be allocated where they are most needed. This calls for a proper prioritization of the limited resources of the Secretariat and for a screening of all agenda items in terms of their relevance, aim and likelihood of reaching a consensus to avoid a duplication of efforts. This is a priority for us.

I thank you.