



Mr. Chairman,

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

The acceding country Croatia

These are indeed austere times and our national budgets feel the effects of the economic crisis very strongly. The approval of the budget is not a one-off event, but requires continued effort and deserves our continued attention. The much needed consolidation and restructuring of the UN's programme budget has to be taken forward this calendar year. Given the current financial climate that affects the membership of the United Nations at large, it is important to ensure that the resources of the Organisation are used in the most effective and efficient way and that strict budgetary discipline is applied. From this perspective, we would like once more to welcome the Secretary General's leadership in this regard as he continues to streamline and prioritise funding requests and identify areas for savings. We continue to urge the Secretariat to keep its business methods in every one of the departments and programmes under constant review – and apply business plans - in order to closely scrutinise recurrent expenditures. We must go beyond incremental budgeting.

Mr. Chairman,

As you know, the Member States of the European Union are, and will remain, staunch supporters of the UN System; above all, we are true supporters of effective multilateralism and therefore in favour of a more effective, efficient and leaner Organisation. EU Member States support the need to ensure a more effective delivery of mandates through innovation and change management. We welcome the clear position of the Secretary General in this regard, as expressed at the closing of the main session in December. We appreciate his ongoing efforts and fully endorse his 5 year action agenda as presented to the General Assembly on 25 January. Let

With respect to this first resumed session, the Member States of the European Union are looking forward to discussing the important items ahead of us. The scale of assessments is obviously one of them, as we are asked to review the methodology and come to an agreement on the future scale by the end of the year. Effective financing of the UN is as important as its effective management. A more equitable financing according to member states' actual capacity to pay is crucial for the functioning of the UN. Securing a sustainable financing architecture of the UN System - which is vital for its future work - should therefore be the top priority of all member states.

Unfortunately, there was a deadlock in the Fifth Committee last December on proposals to review the methodology in line with Resolution 64/248. To bridge the gap, the Member States of the European Union therefore proposed language to establish a high level group of eminent persons to review the matter, based in fact on a successful 1994 precedent. The report of this group would then be considered later in the year by the Committee on Contributions and by the Fifth Committee when it takes decisions on this matter in December.

We believe that such a process would safeguard the competences and prerogatives of this Committee. Since the item was not decided upon in the main session but deferred to this session, our proposal is – in our view - realistically the only sensible option to adequately prepare the discussion in the fall. The Member States of the European Union repeat their call that this Committee agrees to create this working group without delay. The status quo is not an option.

Other important topics that deserve our full attention are – amongst other items to be discussed - the Capital Master Plan and Accountability.

We have been and continue to be strong supporters of the Capital Master Plan and its mission to manage the historic and much needed renovation of the United Nations Headquarters complex in order to create a modern, safe and sustainable work environment. We acknowledge the progress made on the renovation work so far on the Secretariat and Conference buildings, as well as the sustainability approach incorporated in the Capital Master Plan. Some of us will have the opportunity to see the progress tomorrow with our own eyes during the tour of the Secretariat building. We however remain concerned about

European Union are not in a position to accept new assessments of member states. We are confident that the associated costs of the CMP can and will be absorbed within the budgets