



Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services, for introducing the Secretary General's report contained in document A/67/266, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for his introductory remarks on the related report of that Committee contained in document A/67/608. I would also like to thank Mr. István Posta for presenting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/67/83, as well as Mr. Jasim Samatar for introducing the comments of the United Nations Chief Executives' Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Mr Chairman,

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

The Acceding country Croatia^{*}, the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland⁺ and Serbia^{*}, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

^{*} Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

⁺ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

Mr Chairman,

The EU Member States welcome the progress made in developing and implementing a