

**Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union- Fifth Committee- 65th
UNGA**

**Item 128: review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning
of the UN Proposed Programme Budget Outline for the biennium 2012-2013**

15 December 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EU. The Candidate Countries Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland , the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

I would first like to thank Mr. Jun Yamazaki, Controller, for the introduction of the report of the Secretary General on this very important matter, as well as Mme Susan McLurg, Chairperson of the ACABQ for the introduction of ACABQ-report A/65/611.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union believes that the proposed programme budget outline is a valuable tool for facilitating the planning, programming and budgeting process. We regret, in that respect, the late issuance of the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2012-2013, given the very limited time that is left to the Committee at this session. We understand that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources, but we would also like to underscore that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of member states in the budgetary process. For the EU, it is of great importance to carefully balance the immediate needs of the organization with the imperatives of the current fiscal climate that exists.

Over the last years, the budget of the UN has increased significantly. Like every other Member State, the Member States of the EU do not and will not question the principle that the budget should reflect a resource level commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation. However, we regret that no serious efforts seem to have been undertaken to look for further efficiencies that would make the Organization

more effective. Moreover, when a budget is prepared in increments, the legislative bodies competent for approving the budget do not get the impression that the Secretariat seeks to constantly question how these mandates can be delivered more efficiently, with a smaller resource base. There is a clear and urgent need to carefully study possibilities for reallocation of resources and cross-cutting savings. As an example, we cannot find a reason for long-standing vacancies that seem to have no effect on the mandates of specific programmes to be continued and the continuing need for posts that fall vacant owing to retirements should be examined.

We would urge the Secretariat to start scrutinizing its business methods in all different departments and programs. We need to find ways to include close consideration of recurrent expenditures and to go beyond incremental budgeting. It goes without saying that the current practice of incremental budgeting automatically leads to continuously increasing budget levels affecting unequally the membership; primarily those member states that are both staunch defenders of this Organization and large contributors, which is not an acceptable practice in a modern Organization. We further regret that both the preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed activities and priorities during the biennium are often vague and broad, which reduce the proposed programme budget outline from a planning tool to a mechanical chart that has no relevance to Member States. In this respect the EU concurs with the ACABQ about the need to go beyond incremental budgeting and to evaluate and consider the entire quantum of resources necessary to carry out the programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly and other organs.

Mr. Chairman, In concluding, let me assure you and other Member States that the EU is ready to engage constructively in order to reach a successful outcome on this important item.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,