EU STATEMENT FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2C DEBATE –
14 OCTOBER 2013 – NEW YORK

Mr. President,

I have the honour to address the General Assembly 2nd Committee on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Serbia†, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Last year’s Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN operational activities for development represented an important milestone in our collective efforts to ensure the UN system delivers coherent, effective and efficient development results. We welcome the opportunity here to provide some general remarks regarding implementation of the QCPR.

Mr President,

Good progress has already been made. We welcome the QCPR Action Plan developed by the UNDG Task Team, the review of existing funding modalities in support of the resident coordinator system conducted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and urge all funds, programmes and specialised agencies to implement and monitor the cost-sharing arrangement in support of the resident coordinator system starting in 2014 in order to ensure the necessary resources are made available with the ultimate aim to achieve more impact at country level. We also welcome the adoption of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for countries wishing to adopt the delivering-as-one approach by the members of the UNDG. We urge the UNDG to

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
operationalize these SOPs without further delay and to start the implementation of the Second Generation of Delivering-as-One through the actions identified for both the headquarters and the field level. We furthermore would like to reiterate that we expect the entire UN Development System, all funds, programmes and specialised agencies to fully implement the SOPs by the end of 2013. We are pleased that UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and UNICEF have a new agreement on cost recovery frameworks, and that their respective strategic plans focus on system-wide synergies to deliver results, effective on 1 January 2014. A key feature of this convergence is the selection of common indicators for QCPR monitoring.

The QCPR put heavy emphasis on the importance of further simplification and harmonisation of business practices as well as addressing bottlenecks at the headquarters level through streamlining of programming, funding, reporting and accountability mechanisms, in particular through the full implementation of the Management and Accountability Framework. We call for full implementation of this ambitious agenda by the UN development system.

Of course, much more needs to be done to ensure full implementation of the QCPR. In this regard, a robust and coherent framework for monitoring and reporting on QCPR implementation remains crucial. We call on the UN development system to work closely together to ensure that this framework clearly articulates milestones achieved and progress made through the use of consistent indicators, while keeping transactions costs and reporting burdens, particularly at country-level, to a minimum.

Mr. President,

Financial flows to the UN development system have increased substantially over the last 15 years. While recent growth has been concentrated in the non-core category of resources, core resources are the bedrock of the UN development agencies. Additional non-core resources – when aligned with national priorities and the strategic plans of UN agencies – can play an important complementary role to core funding. As was recognized in the QCPR, there is also a need to prioritise non-core resources that are more predictable, flexible and less earmarked, including by giving priority to pooled, thematic and joint funding mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels.

Member states share a collective responsibility to ensure adequate and timely funding of the work plans and budgets approved by their governing bodies of UN development agencies. We therefore
look forward to the structured dialogues to be organised by the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes and Governing Bodies of the Specialised Agencies during 2014 as called for in the QCPR on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic plans of the UN entities.

Mr. President,

Overall, we believe that all funding – core and non-core – should be delivered in a way that promotes coherence, is responsive to the needs of programme countries in line with the respective mandate of the implementing funds and programmes and delivers the maximum development impact. Here, we continue to believe that the principles confirmed at Busan in December 2011 of national ownership of development priorities; focus on results and managing for results; inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability should guide the funding practices of all Member States. Equally, the UN system should continue to develop and put in place robust results frameworks and results-based management systems as called for in the QCPR in order to demonstrate development impact and ensure funding is aligned with strategic plans.

Mr. President,

The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the full implementation of the QCPR. We value the UN operational activities and recognize their relevance. At a time of strained national budgets, when all donors need to make special efforts to make good on their ODA commitments, effective and efficient use of the scarce resources available is all the more important. The UN system is making efforts to ensure that it plays its part and it can be assured of full support from the EU to meet these challenges.

Thank you.