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ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

STATEMENT BY ENNO DROFENIK

COUNSELLOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Introduction of the SG report “Investing in the United Nations”

FIFTH COMMITTEE

New York, 3 April 2006

EU Statement

Introduction of the SG report “Investing in the United Nations”

- The EU would like to thank the Secretariat for the introduction of the report “Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organisation worldwide”. We welcome the report and the vision presented therein. We have already stated our view on the need for change at the occasion of the presentation of this report to the Plenary of the General Assembly. In the interest of time we will refrain from restating our well-known position. The Secretary General has clearly set out his vision. We support him in his efforts.
- We would like to express our appreciation for the presentation the ACABQ report by its chairman. The report is concise, well balanced and provides valuable guidance for the consideration of the Secretary General’s report.
- We agree with the ACABQ that some subjects, in particular the proposals on governance, are not suited for a technical review of an expert body, but rather for a policy decision by the General Assembly. We also concur with the general observation that for a more substantive discussion more detailed information is necessary. We are looking forward to the forthcoming implementation report scheduled for May. We note that some proposals are within the purview of the Secretary General and can be implemented without a decision of the General Assembly. We wish to see more focus on the area of accountability. Furthermore, it might be desirable to see the human resource proposals already at an early stage.
- In our view, a more detailed implementation report is necessary. At this stage, any review by the Fifth Committee can only be of a general and preliminary nature. The EU stands ready to work together with all member states to identify a first input for the consultations of the Plenary of the General Assembly. It will depend entirely on the progress made if this input takes the form of a resolution or a letter from the Chairman. Whatever the form may be, it is important to give analysis and recommendations to the General Assembly.
- The President of the General Assembly has asked the Committee to report back as soon as possible. While we have taken note of 18 April being the last possible date for this to happen, it is the understanding of the European Union that this has to take place as soon as possible.
- We understand that the programme of work for this session will be subject to the availability of resources for the provision of conference services. In the absence of a detailed implementation report we are not yet convinced about the necessity to enter into a detailed and prolonged debate. The programme of work for this session needs to take these points duly into account.