



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARKUS LEINONEN
ADVISER TO THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY
AT THE 107th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 8 – 11 October 2024)**

Agenda item 11 (g) – Mid-Biennium Draft Revised Programme and Budget for 2025

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine as well as the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area) align themselves with this statement. Andorra, Monaco and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union would like to thank the Programme and Budget co-facilitators, Mr. Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland and Mr. Francisco de la Lama of Mexico, for their constant efforts to ensure inclusive and goal oriented consultation process leading up to the revision of the OPCW Budget for 2025.

The European Union welcomes Director-General Arias' revised draft programme and budget for 2025 and supports its proposals, including the timely and effective reallocation of the 2022 cash surplus and the envisaged reduction in the assessed contribution requirements for 2025.

Under the currently challenging financial conditions, the Technical Secretariat is required to continue to practice strict budgetary discipline. This responsible approach should also be applied to the use of extra-budgetary funding by the Secretariat.

In this context, the European Union calls on States Parties to meet their obligations and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. For its part, the EU will continue to support the work of the Organisation with voluntary funding worth EUR 5,350.000 until 2026. This contribution will help finance key activities such as capacity building.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session.

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