

**EU General Statement**  
**before the vote on Cluster VI (Regional disarmament and security)**  
**concerning the resolution on Strengthening of security and cooperation**  
**in the Mediterranean region (L.27)**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, with the alignment of the Candidate Countries North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Albania\*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as San Marino, with regard to draft resolution L.27, “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”.

OP5 of the draft resolution calls upon all countries of the Mediterranean region to adhere to relevant multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.

We would like to underline that the reference to "relevant legal instruments" includes, in our view, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which, despite 178 ratifications, has regrettably not yet entered into force. The CTBT has established a powerful norm against nuclear testing and is making an invaluable contribution to international peace and security, for the good of humanity. Promoting the universalization and early entry into force of the CTBT are among the EU's top priorities. All 27 EU Member States have ratified the Treaty, and remain strongly committed to pursuing the achievement of its objectives. The EU also continues to provide significant financial support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities. Confirming the EU Member States' continued active engagement, the EU has become a supporter of ten actions of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, among which, Action 4 “Bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force”.

Mr. Chair,

The EU deeply deplores Russia's decision to revoke its ratification of the CTBT, bringing the number of remaining annex II States from eight to nine, thus further delaying the entry force of the treaty, which requires all 44 annex II States to ratify. The European Union calls on Russia to continue to respect the object and purpose of the Treaty, of which it remains a signatory.

The EU reiterates its call on all States who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the CTBT without any preconditions or delay. In particular, we address this call to the now nine remaining Annex II States whose ratification is essential for the Treaty's entry into force.

Pending the CTBT's entry into force, the EU calls upon all States to maintain moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and to refrain from any actions that would undermine the Treaty's object and purpose. Nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear

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\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

explosions represent a serious threat to international peace and security, and undermine the global non-proliferation regime. It is important that all State Signatories adhere to the objectives of the Treaty. Nonetheless, the absence of the CTBT's entry into force prevents the use of on-site inspections, an important verification tool. Only the entry into force of the Treaty will outlaw in a verifiable way nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. We therefore continue to use every opportunity to advocate the Treaty's ratification and universalization, also during this First Committee session.

Mr. Chair,

The EU also supports the universalization of The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, currently with 145 Subscribing States, that aims at curbing the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering Weapons of Mass Destruction, and contains confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of miscalculation posed by the flight tests of ballistic missiles and space launches, thus contributing to objectives of OP6 of the draft resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.