Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to present the following points in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

During this current session of the General Assembly, matters relating to sustainable development will be a major topic for discussion, particularly as the United Nations Member States continue to deliberate on the post-2015 process and the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals.

Malta is working to ensure that we truly seek development that is sustainable and not damaging to the planet, and that we face present and future challenges with a positive attitude and strengthened commitment so that together we can facilitate the reversal of some dire outlooks into cleaner, responsible and sustainable green growth. Our approach should be forward-looking; one that places sustainable development and future generations at its nucleus.

We note that elevating people from poverty and improving their social status as well as their quality of life goes hand in hand with growth and hence we must all strive towards a greener sustainable growth. However Malta believes that in order to achieve this and further enable poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable people to break the poverty cycle, we need to aim at a better benchmark without being overly ambitious. Whilst welcoming that the reduction of people living below each country’s national poverty line is left in the hands of the country itself, we must offer a more promising future across the globe and aim at reducing the number of people living on less than a mere $1.25 a day.
Mr. Chairman,

As the country which successfully put the preservation of Climate Change on the agenda of the United Nations in 1988 and as a State Party to both the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, Malta continues to strongly support initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly on small and vulnerable island states. My delegation looks forward to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Warsaw in November.

Malta welcomes discussions and timely debate on how best to proceed in the shaping of the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement in order to facilitate the Agreement to lay the foundations for the international regime for combating climate change post-2020. In this regard Malta firmly believes that discussions must recognise the urgency of addressing climate change. Progress should be made toward a globally applicable agreement containing legally-binding commitments and obligations which are applicable to all parties, including in particular binding emission reduction targets consistent with the requirements of science. Malta believes that this Agreement must ensure that the current emissions gap which has resulted between voluntary pledges and actual reductions required to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees is addressed. Such an Agreement should contain a Spectrum of Commitments which enables and encourages broad and ambitious participation by all Parties.

Malta also believes that the 2015 Agreement must continue to develop and focus more intensely on Adaptation. We need to create the correct political momentum, to push for a legally binding regime, which is applicable to all parties and must ascertain that the milestones which have been achieved in Durban and Doha, are not unravelled.

Malta believes that a stepwise approach is required in the international negotiations. This approach has proved successful in recent years and may also help to ensure that the build up in political pressure and momentum to the 2015 Agreement does not hinder the achievement of a positive outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

As we now reach the phase when together we will discuss the post-2015 framework, my delegation considers the Rio+20 Conference, and its outcome document, as a convergence of international efforts at various levels to move towards a greener economy and to accelerate poverty eradication. We give high importance to the outcome document agreed at the highest level, as a road map for our future work, and my delegation strongly discourages any re-opening of Rio+20 negotiated outcome. We strongly believe that the Rio+20 outcome document gives us all the opportunity to progress on our international and national commitments towards sustainable development.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.