Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. However, I would like to additionally elaborate on some matters from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable development remains an issue of strategic orientation and preoccupation and represents a key policy driver for Montenegro’s society. As a result, sustainable development framework is being constantly upgraded in my country. Latest of such steps was restructuring and strengthening of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Governmental body in charge for sustainable development, that is now headed by the President of Montenegro and has a broader mandate with a stronger focus on climate change. Implementation of sustainable development is becoming embedded in all layers of Government, including at the local level where municipalities have been establishing their own local councils for sustainable development as well as adopting local sustainable development strategies.

My country continues to be dedicated to active participation in all ongoing processes whose convergance will lead to the single universal framework and set of goals defined in a balanced, meaningful and forward-looking manner. Prime Minister of Montenegro took part this September in the inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum. The HLPF will certainly play a crucial role in the elaboration and the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda. It will be the platform that will involve all relevant actors with an aim to provide concrete guidance in the review of the sustainable development goals, their implementation and monitoring, as well as integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development by all actors. Montenegro welcomes the important Outcome document of the September Special Event to follow up efforts
made towards achieving the MDGs, which sets ambitious and inclusive contours for a final push towards further progress on MDGs in the run up to 2015, as well as charts the way forward on elaborating post-2015 development agenda.

I do believe that sustainable development offers the only lasting way out of the current crisis, provided that there is a balance between an efficient use of the economic potential and the social capacity, coupled with a full respect for and integration of the principles of environmental protection. My country’s experience in applying the global sustainable development standards has demonstrated that adequate adaptation to the national circumstances and specific particularities, as well as the level of development of each individual nation is a fundamental factor for their effective implementation. Thus the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of Montenegro, as an umbrella development document, integrates universal guidelines on sustainable development adapted to the national context. In accordance with recommendations contained in paragraphs 67 and 98 of the Rio Outcome Document, Montenegro has initiated the revision of the National strategy in order for it to appropriately reflect on the latest development concepts and trends while at the same time being tailored to the current national priorities and circumstances.

Vital inputs for our revised Strategy will be derived from the national consultations on post-2015 development agenda held earlier this year in Montenegro. Consultations have resulted in a broad consensus and have, quite uncommonly, highlighted the need for strengthening social structures based on solidarity, family values, tolerance, respect for others and non-discrimination. The results of the consultations represent a documented voice of the largest number of consulted citizens thus far on priorities for future sustainable development of Montenegro. They are also our starting point for the Work in the Open Working Group for formulating Sustainable Development Goals. We do believe that there should be synergy between the process of establishing national priorities and that of defining a post-2015 global development agenda. The two processes working hand in hand, complementing each other offer a guarantee of future success.

Mr. Chairman,

In my country, MDGs are successfully implemented through a programme of measures and national indicators that reflect the current situation, as well as a vision of Montenegro’s future development. I am convinced that future work towards defining a post-2015 development agenda and SDGs has to be based on universal values and a universal vision, while providing for a flexible implementation mechanism that will facilitate an optimal development of each individual country. SDGs must be clear, universal, flexible and coherent, and represent a central part of the post-2015 global development agenda. They must clearly reflect political commitment to sustainable development, promoting economic development, social inclusion, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection, as well as peace and security, rule of
law and human rights. As a member of the Open Working Group on SDGs, Montenegro is exerting devoted efforts on defining SDGs, taking into consideration national characteristics, capacities and individual countries development priorities.

Poverty eradication and other unmet Millennium Goals must remain at the heart of the post 2015 development agenda. We must define future sustainable development goals based on the experience and lessons learnt from our success or failure in accomplishing the tasks from the Millennium Declaration. Montenegro is working diligently to achieve MDGs and is now close to their achievement. Climate change is another issue that is inseparable from the development framework for the post-2015 period. Montenegro is committed to intensifying efforts related to the adoption of a comprehensive and legally binding agreement by 2015 that would apply to all. We call upon all the countries, in particular the major world economies, to intensify their efforts related to mitigating climate change impact and reaching a global climate agreement. In this regard we stress our full support to the initiative of the Secretary General to convene a Conference on Climate Change in September 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to announce, in collaboration with the UN system in Montenegro, the inauguration of a Center for Sustainable Development in the early 2014. The mission of the Center will be to promote sustainable development in the context of integration processes. We believe that the Center will facilitate furthering the availability of expertise and of good practices in the field of green technologies, which will contribute to addressing today's challenges more efficiently. It is our hope that the Center, starting at the national level, will be soon recognized as an important regional mechanism that could serve common interests and purpose, but also internationally as part of the post Rio+20 network of sustainable development centers. Let me also use this opportunity to point out that the construction of the shared UN eco building in Montenegro, first of its kind in the world, will be finished by the end of this year. The building, designed according to the finest ecological principles and self-sufficiency in terms of energy, will provide joint roof for UN family in Montenegro. The common premises will enable the UN agencies in Montenegro to more effectively channel and coordinate their programmatic activities in the country. Thus, increased efficiency is expected in providing support to the Government of Montenegro in addressing its national priorities.

In closing, I am certain that the UN, guided by the synergy and pragmatic approach of its members and all the stakeholders, will be able to respond to the highly complex challenge sustainable development presents. Such an approach will contribute to the wellbeing and safer future of us all, thus strengthening further the central role of the UN role in the system of global governance.

Thank you.