Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland† and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Our engagement at the UN and especially in the Second Committee of the GA over the coming year will be guided by our efforts to achieve a successful post-2015 development framework. We will continue to engage constructively in all upcoming processes whose outputs will feed into the preparation of the September 2015 Summit.

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* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
† Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
In this regard, we welcome the Outcome Document of the September Special Event to follow-up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs. It represents a key step forward and a good balance between positions expressed over months of consultations. We welcome the fact that it captures in a concise manner key messages both on the final push towards the MDGs in the run up to 2015, as well as on charting the way forward towards elaborating the post-2015 development agenda. We appreciate that key elements have been agreed and are included in the final text, notably the need for a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development working towards a single universal framework and set of goals and the reference to peace and security, gender equality, human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance.

We welcome the establishment of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The EU played an active role in that process and will support the work of the HLPF to provide political leadership, enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and to robustly review progress in the implementation of commitments.

We also welcome the recently agreed ECOSOC reform package and the decision that the HLPF will meet under the auspices of both the General Assembly and the ECOSOC. This puts sustainable development at the centre of a better coordinated UN system. And this enhanced coherence and effectiveness within the UN is a reflection of the broader coherence we should seek in all our cooperative efforts and initiatives.

In the same vein we will also attach the highest priority to ensure policy coherence and consistency, not only between the follow up to Rio+20, the post-2015 development agenda, and the Financing for Development process, but also with many other associated processes, such as those relating to democracy, rule of law, human rights, peace and security, gender equality, empowerment of women, population and development.

Mr. Chairman,

The world has changed over the last decades, including the nature and magnitude of our global challenges, their cause and effects, and our respective capabilities to address them. The post-2015 development agenda should recognize such evolving dynamics. We are committed to addressing these evolving realities and responsibilities, and acknowledge the particular situation and concerns of the most vulnerable countries. We will all need to play our part to support countries most lagging behind.

We believe that the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration provide a broad policy framework upon which to base our future discussions on financing for development. The key element of that framework – a comprehensive approach with shared responsibilities – remains as relevant today as it was a decade ago.
However, this framework needs to be adapted to new circumstances – the distribution of global wealth, countries’ ability to influence global trends, the role of emerging donors, all have changed considerably over the last ten years. We have also seen the multiplication of international financing processes and instruments such as those associated with climate or biodiversity finance. We support the work of the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing in proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy and stand ready to contribute to the development of a single, integrated financial strategy framework for sustainable development in view of the post-2015 development agenda.

At the same time, innovative financing can complement other resources and has been widely recognized for its contribution to development. We are committed to working on innovative mechanisms for raising and utilising resources to ensure predictable financing for sustainable development and to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development objectives.

In this context we look forward to engaging with partners in informal consultations with a view to taking a final decision on the need for a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change will also be an important topic in our discussions ahead, being a central challenge for sustainable development and poverty eradication. All economies are together in the fight against climate change. Our common challenge is to put our economies on the path to low-emission development and climate resilient development, and to use climate action as a catalyser for sustainable development. This year in Warsaw, Poland we must continue to make progress on what was agreed in Cancun, Durban and Doha and to pave the way for adopting a single global and comprehensive legally-binding agreement applicable to all parties by 2015.

Lastly, Mr Chairman,

We do not underestimate the difficulties in discussing these issues in the weeks ahead. We hope that we will continue on the path of improving our working methods and further advance our standing efforts to ensure relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of our Committee. We have made concrete proposals in this regard during the informal consultation of 4 October.

We look forward to fruitful and constructive exchanges in the Second Committee, and would like to give you assurance of our full support in our collective endeavour.

I thank you.