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

Mr President,

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted at the 2007 Summit in Lisbon forms the strategic framework for our steadily expanding cooperation and dialogue with Africa. It sets out a comprehensive partnership of equals moving away from the traditional donor-recipient approach, to engage in a systematic political dialogue.

Our partnership is guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, shared values and interest, as well as joint ownership and responsibilities. These are also core principles of the African Union and NEPAD. At the 4th Africa-EU Summit held in April 2014 in Brussels, EU and African leaders renewed their commitments to work together, and agreed to focus on five priorities: 1) peace and security 2) democracy, good governance and human rights 3) human development 4) sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration 5) global and emerging issues. We also committed to consult and work in partnership during the upcoming negotiations with a view to reaching a consensual outcome in September 2015.

The EU recognizes the essential role played by the AU and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development in the definition of continental policy frameworks and programs, respecting in full the notions of subsidiarity and ownership, and as monitor of commitments towards African development needs. Our support include APRM, as the main African-led framework to monitor and promote good governance in the continent, and it includes support to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Our aim is to support Africa's political and economic integration, through enhanced trade, a strengthened political partnership,
and increased cooperation in promising new areas, and support for institutional capacity building at the national, regional and continental level. The EU remains the biggest trading and development partner with the African continent.

Mr. President,

The promotion of democratic and transparent systems of government and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are key components of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. The aim in this area is to facilitate an open, broad-based dialogue on all pertinent issues, including human rights and the full enjoyment of such rights by all. We welcome the progress made by the AU in addressing the many security challenges on the continent, both through African-led Peace Support Operations and through the establishment of its Peace and Security Architecture; the EU has significantly supported these processes since 2004 with more than € 1.2 billion. And we look forward to pursue our cooperation in other areas of common interest, as stated in the ambitious Road Map at the 2014 Africa-EU summit. We will therefore continue to closely follow the African-owned policy frameworks, and to support their implementation, particularly in the framework of the Strategic Africa-EU Partnership.

Mr. President,

Africa continues to face a huge burden of potentially preventable or treatable diseases, causing death and untold suffering, while simultaneously blocking economic development. Malaria - alongside other deadly virus such as Ebola or HIV/AIDS - inflict a tremendous burden on Africa, particularly women, children and the most vulnerable. Significant progress has been made in the global fight against malaria in recent years, including in Africa. Experience has shown prevention can achieve impressive results, when actions are underpinned by strong and effective health systems. But progress will rapidly be reversed if we relax our joint efforts. There is still much to do to drive the number of cases and deaths due to malaria down even further. This cannot be achieved without sustained investment and political will. Combating diseases such as malaria, through strengthened national health systems, is, in our view, one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty and promote equitable and sustainable development. We need to further invest in the health work force and build capacity to ensure equitable access to prevention, treatment and care through implementation of universal health coverage. As the world’s largest donor both in general and in the health sector in particular, the EU and its Member States will continue to work with the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the UN System or other relevant organizations and mechanisms, including NGOs to support the national responses in strengthening their health systems to properly address malaria and other diseases.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by emphasising that the EU and its Member States remain fully committed to supporting Africa and Africans in their quest for peace, democratic governance, human rights and sustainable development.