Mr President,

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 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.

Mr President,

We cannot accept that more than 840 million people remain hungry or undernourished today. The 2013 State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) report as well as the latest report from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which we welcome, reminds us of the challenge ahead. We thus remain committed to actively contribute to the global effort to tackle global hunger and under-nutrition and to translate our commitment into action.

We are, through the EU development policy "Agenda for Change", the EU policy on food security and the new EU policy on nutrition, strongly promoting the multiplier role of the agricultural sector and the contribution that all actors can make, a view which has been echoed in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. Through EU policies, we are working to tackle the root causes of vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity. We have for example concretely contributed to the launch of the two initiatives, AGIR ("Alliance globale pour l'initiative résilience") and SHARE ("Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience"), to strengthen resilience in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

Excessive price volatility can have devastating effects, in particular for the poor and most vulnerable. We reaffirm our determination to implement all previous G20 commitments and existing initiatives. We have to this end strongly supported the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and we commend the work to establish the Platform for Agriculture Risk Management (PARM) which will start to operate before the end of this year.

We need to promote sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems, supporting developing countries in boosting and diversifying their agricultural production and productivity, also by investing in research, which is vital. Increasing agricultural productivity to meet the needs of the world's population is constrained by the

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
scarcity and mismanagement of natural resources. Sustainable productivity needs to be fostered, notably through demand-led agricultural research and innovation. Agricultural development and land management that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable also has important mitigation potential. We also support current efforts to tackle the issue of food losses and waste. According to FAO, almost one third of food produced for human consumption - around 1.3 billion tons per year - is either lost or wasted.

Special attention should be paid to small-holder farmers, particularly women. In this context, we support the policy recommendations adopted by the recent CFS session regarding investments in small-holder agriculture, and we welcome the 2014 International Year of Family Farming to be launched in New York on 22 November. Accordingly, the external assistance programmes of the EU and of its Member States specifically support small-holder farmers, particularly women, to become more resilient, adopt ecologically efficient agriculture practices, diversify to more nutritious crops and to increase their incomes, improve their nutrition status and that of their families and communities, and improve their quality of life. We also support vulnerable groups in countries most off-track on the MDGs. We recognize that support to small-holder farmers is most effective if the entire food production cycle is considered, in other words if we use a value chain approach. The adoption of the EU policy on humanitarian food assistance has also enhanced the coherence of our actions between emergency and longer-term support, and strengthened our efforts to tackle food and nutrition insecurity during humanitarian crises.

Alongside agricultural production and food security, we must continue to invest in adequate and balanced nutrition, in particular for pregnant women and for children under the age of two. Achieving this objective means adopting a multi-sectoral approach so that nutrition objectives are incorporated in the design of programmes in a range of areas such as food security, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and education. Through the new EU policy on nutrition, the EU has concretely committed to support countries in reducing the number of children under five who are stunted by at least 7 million by 2025. In this regard, we are strong supporters of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) and welcome the increased number of participating countries. Looking ahead, reporting on progress for commitments made, and those that will be made in the future, will be essential, notably through a regular global report on nutrition tracking progress towards improving nutrition and resource spending.

Mr President,

Secure and equitable access to land is crucial. An appropriate legal framework and commitment to enforce it are of paramount importance to safeguard equitable and secure access to land, and to support appropriate business models that foster broad-based growth, environmental sustainability, food and nutrition security, and livelihoods resilience. We encourage all countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security. To support the implementation of the Guidelines, the European Union and several of its Member States have launched new partnerships with a number of countries committed to improving their land governance. We also strongly support the ongoing consultation process at the CFS to develop principles for responsible investment in agriculture that respect rights, livelihoods and resources.

Mr President,

Let me close by recalling that open and rules-based trade, efficient markets, effective global governance and effective global coordination are essential for achieving global food and nutrition security. Working together, we can make a genuine difference and ensure tangible results for the most vulnerable. We therefore also support the UNSG's Zero Hunger Challenge and believe that appropriate consideration must be given to sustainable agriculture development, food and nutrition security in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.