Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. But let me add some remarks in my national capacity, mainly regarding agriculture development, an area that is of particular relevance to my country.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable agriculture development and sustainable food systems is one of the strategic priorities for Montenegro. As such, agriculture and rural development represent key sectors of our economy and of many other countries around the world. They are closely interlinked with all other spheres of economy. The associated benefits of agriculture and rural development for the overall employment of people and income generation is the aspect that should be more emphasized, at all levels. Impact of agriculture development is also manifested through its contribution to reducing regional development disparities and to the eradication of poverty, as well as through its mitigation effect on other industries in times of financial and economic constraints and difficulties. Therefore, agriculture land should be viewed as a great resource that is vital for sustainable development and livelihood of society.

Montenegro is strongly committed to agricultural development and land management that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. We continue to implement reforms and work to develop strategic framework that will allow our agriculture policy to be fully in line with highest standards of the EU. With the assistance of Food and Agriculture Organization, we are currently preparing the Strategy for agriculture and rural development, which will in a comprehensive manner address all
pertinent challenges and seek to identify roles for each stakeholder in this process. Recognizing the growing prospects of organic production and having the high quality and fertile land in the well-preserved environment, the Government of Montenegro adopted a Law on Organic Production and the related National Action Plan for the period 2012-2017. In this respect, my country continues to have high regard for the ecologically efficient agriculture practices and environment-friendly cultivation that aims to protect country’s biodiversity as one of our biggest potentials.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize the significance of small-holder farmers and in this sense express support to recommendations adopted by the recent Committee on World Food Security session concerning investments in small-holder agriculture. We welcome the 2014 International Year of Family Farming to be launched in New York on 22 November. We also support the Secretary-General Zero Hunger Challenge and continue to be concerned, while noting there has been some progress towards malnourished population, that still around 840 million people in the world, or one in eight, suffer from chronic hunger. Urgent and concrete actions of the international community are needed to deliver the most vulnerable from extreme poverty and hunger. This is why we are hopeful that the agriculture development, food security and nutrition, as a matter with wide-range implications, will find its appropriate place in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda so that food security and hunger challenges are addressed in a most responsible and efficient way.

Thank you.