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Item 26
Towards Global Partnerships

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Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by
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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 Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Furthering the principles and goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, overcoming the many global challenges we face, achieving the Millennium Development Goals: these all require us to work in partnership and involve the active participation of all relevant stakeholders - governments, private sector and civil society. On the occasion of the Special Event Heads of State and Governments gathered with a sense of urgency. They expressed their determination for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, renewed their commitment to the Goals and resolved to intensify all efforts for the achievement of the Goals by 2015.

In this spirit, it is also important to underline the importance of working with all stakeholders and to strengthen partnerships.

The United Nations is a unique partner for the global business community wishing to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Even though the concept of corporate social responsibility is enjoying an increasing support worldwide, certain incidents this year reminded us that it is still far from being implemented worldwide. In Rio, Member States acknowledged that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and they decided to support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives.

Partnerships of the United Nations with the private sector and other actors can and do play an important role in addressing global challenges. Like other stakeholders, private sector actors have important responsibilities and obligations towards their employees, the government, but also towards broader communities to ensure that partnerships are genuinely of benefit for all. We must continue to encourage all private sector actors to commit to respect and support our shared values and vision of progress.

In this regard, the UN Global Compact and the many partnerships involving UN Agencies, including SG-initiatives, Funds and Programmes continue to play an important role, promoting dialogue and cooperation between the UN and the private sector as well as other stakeholders with a view towards furthering our shared goals and shaping the post-2015 development agenda.
Mr Chairman,

We welcome the significant progress made over the last years in building partnerships with the private sector and others in the work of the UN. Let me highlight some concrete examples:

- First, the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 15 to 18 June 2012 in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development and gathering nearly 3,000 participants - investors, academics, community representatives, environmental experts and corporate leaders- from all regions,
- Second, the initiatives of the Secretary General such as Sustainable Energy for All, Every Woman Every Child, the Global Education First Initiative and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Mr Chairman,

The Member States of the European Union are this year tabling their bi-annual draft resolution entitled "Towards Global Partnerships". This draft resolution, while based on the previous resolution on this theme, tries to encourage and strengthen partnerships as well as the dialogue with stakeholders about the post-2015 agenda. It includes ideas contained in the Secretary General report on the need to enhance transparency, accountability and due diligence as well as actions on partnerships at the local level.

We look forward to working with all delegations on the draft resolution and invite all interested Member States to cosponsor the resolution and take this opportunity to thank those Members States which have already signed as co-sponsors.

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, everybody should benefit from fostering global partnerships. The private sector and other relevant stakeholders have important contributions to make as well as responsibilities and obligations to fulfil, and they should continue to be encouraged to engage with the work of the United Nations and contribute towards our shared goals.

Thank you.