United Nations
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Statement delivered by Mr. Gerton van den Akker, Counsellor
Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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Mr President,

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

The European Union and its Member States welcome today's adoption of the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

We would like to thank the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr Sam Kutesa for convening today's plenary meeting and for his engagement in the GA Revitalization process. We owe further thanks to the Co-Chairs, H.E. Mr Vladimir Drobnjak and H.E. Mr Wilfried Emvula and their teams, who ably led the negotiation process. We thank also the UN Secretariat's DGACM Director, Mr Ion Botnaru, Mr Georg Zeiner, also of DGACM, and other colleagues from the UN Secretariat engaged in the process for their useful involvement. We would like to highlight the constructive atmosphere throughout the negotiations and thank all the negotiating partners for their engagement in revitalizing the General Assembly.

The resolution we have just adopted contains significant novelties and would not have been possible without the flexibility shown by all UN Member States engaged in the negotiations. This resolution can be seen as a milestone in enhancing the transparency and inclusivity of the selection process of the next Secretary-General. The conducting of informal dialogues or meetings with candidates for the position of Secretary-General is particularly noteworthy in this regard. Significant progress was also made in other areas, such as the working methods of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

Mr President,

On 22 June of this year the Council of the European Union adopted its priorities for the 70th session of the General Assembly. These priorities recognise that the revitalization of the General Assembly is a key component to strengthening the UN as a whole, and it is with this in mind that I wish to signal our readiness to remain constructively engaged in this process.

I thank you.