

**Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union - Second Committee - 65th
UNGA**

4 October 2010

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Madam Chairperson,

The General Debate of the Second Committee of the 65th General Assembly takes place in propitious circumstances. The High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals was a crucial event for the international community and a major success. It has given us all a unique opportunity to show our determination to achieving the MDGs by 2015. It has also been an exceptional occasion to display our unity on issues of the utmost importance. The Outcome Document adopted on this occasion gives fresh political impetus to the MDGs. It also provides us all with guidance on what needs to be done to reach them by the target date of 2015. The positive outcome of the High-Level Plenary Meeting also contributes to reinvigorating the UN, thus generating momentum ahead of other major UN processes and events coming up in the next months and years, starting with COP16 and the 4th Conference on Least-Development Countries. We have to both build on the success of the High-Level Plenary Meeting and further amplify it. The follow-up process will be determinant in this respect. It is essential that all stakeholders follow through on the commitments they have made. The Second Committee should also build on the discussions and outcomes of other recent events, like the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the ECOSOC Spring Meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions and the substantive session of ECOSOC in July. Our deliberations should also take into consideration the debates and outcomes reached in other relevant fora such as the G8 and G20 meetings and the annual meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Madam Chairperson,

Considerable work remains to be done, but we all agree that sustainable development in all its components can be achieved, and this, despite the many challenges we all face: from the rise of food prices and the risk it entails for food security in many developing countries, to addressing migratory flows, from the management of the financial crisis and the support of economic recovery, to the challenge of adapting our institutions of global economic governance. The EU remains deeply committed to the MDG project and will play its full role in this collective endeavour. The Financing for Development and macroeconomic items will give us the opportunity to enhance our commitment to the Monterrey Consensus framework. The Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration continue to be landmark agreements for development. They lay the foundation for the global partnership within which the international community must work to reach the MDGs. Each country has the

primary responsibility for its own development. Progress towards the MDGs depends to a great extent on the quality and coherence of development partners' policies. Ownership by developing countries, including through the mobilisation of domestic resources, the creation of a framework suitable for sustainable, inclusive and green growth as a basis for sustainable development, and strengthened fiscal administration, is essential in this respect, as is the promotion and respect of human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance and decent work. In this regard, the principles of aid effectiveness as defined in Paris and Accra remain a key mechanism to support and promote national ownership. These should also increasingly apply to cooperation amongst developing countries, as well as to the UN system itself, including in the framework of the "Delivering as One" initiative.

An important area of our work in this respect consists in enhancing UN operational activities for development so aid can be delivered more effectively in support of national plans and priorities at the country level. In this regard, we should build on the progress made last year in the System-wide coherence process. (PARA moved up) As far as funding is concerned, the EU recognises the importance of aid as a major catalyst of development. The EU has recently reaffirmed its commitments to reaching a collective ODA target of 0.7% of GNI by 2015, to channel at least 50% of its collective aid increases to Africa, and to meet collectively the target of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNP to the Least Developed Countries. The EU hopes to see other donors, including emerging ones, stepping up their own level of ambition. At the same time, additional resources for development can be raised through establishing innovative development financing mechanisms and further involvement of the private sector. The EU will pay special attention to financing for development and its new instruments.

Madam Chairperson,

The EU has again demonstrated its commitment to the MDGs by recently launching a €1 billion MDG Initiative, as part of the 10th European Development Fund, aimed at supporting the efforts of the most committed and neediest countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. In its policies and its actions, the EU will prioritise the MDGs that are most off-track, notably in the regions and countries most lagging behind, especially Sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed Countries. Countries in situations of conflict and fragility also require special attention. It is only through prioritisation and targeting that we can make a genuine difference. The EU will work closely with all relevant actors to this end: partner countries; the UN and its agencies, funds and programmes; regional organisations, such as the Africa Union; other relevant international bodies and fora; as well as civil society, including the private sector. All development partners share responsibility for reaching the MDGs. Shared accountability of both developed and developing countries is therefore essential in this respect. The lines of action and principles I have just described, which are embedded in the Outcome Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting, will be fully reflected in the EU's approach in the context of the Second Committee's work. The Outcome Document also devotes utmost attention to sustainable development and climate change, and their link to achieving the MDGs.

Madam Chairperson,

At the High Level Event on Biodiversity last month, the Secretary General called on us all to act resolutely to limit the trespassing of the 'planetary boundaries'. The Second Committee will debate while deliberations unfold in Nagoya to develop new targets in order to halt biodiversity loss, to adopt a new strategic plan for the CBD and to conclude negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. There should be no gap between scientific knowledge and political decision making. We bridged the gap for climate change in 1988 with the establishment of IPCC. It is now time to bridge the gap for Biodiversity. The EU strongly supports the "Busan Outcome" which calls for the creation and designs the contours of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. This outcome is the balanced result of a multi-year inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder process, reflecting the interests of developed and developing countries alike. The EU believes it is now time for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution this fall and equip the international community with this new instrument to fight biodiversity loss. In the face of growing risks we should spare no efforts. The shift to a low carbon economy is unquestionably the defining challenge of our time and we have to create the structure that will make this shift a reality. The EU therefore estimates that the two themes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development that will take place in Brazil in 2012 are of the utmost importance and that the preparatory process of the conference should now focus on the substance. One of the next steps ahead of us is COP16 in Cancun.

Let me reiterate here that the EU will honour its commitments, both financially through its fast-start finance pledge and in terms of mitigation targets. The EU reaffirms its commitments towards the achievement of a comprehensive, legally-binding agreement for the climate regime. In this context, the EU can support the adoption of a set of concrete measures at COP16 in those areas where enough progress is registered, covering the building blocks of the Bali roadmap, together with a work programme towards a legally-binding agreement. This should allow the incorporation of parts of the Copenhagen Accord into COP decisions. Any outcome in Cancun should also adequately address the need of adaptation of the most vulnerable, including the SIDS and Africa. The EU is looking forward to the COP 16 in Cancun and is hopeful that the negotiation in the Second Commission will create the appropriate atmosphere for the forthcoming Conference. Which takes me to my last point. The EU has already expressed its views regarding the effectiveness of the Second Committee's work and welcome your approach in this regard

Madam Chairperson. Timeliness is an essential dimension in this respect and we trust that with your guidance we will be able to accomplish that. Madam Chairperson, The EU looks forward to fruitful and constructive exchanges in the Second Committee and would like to give you the assurance of its full support in our collective endeavours.

Thank you