



Delegation of the European Union



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Statement on behalf of the European Union

By

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on Implementing Sustainable Development
Follow-up to CSD-17 Decisions**

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mister Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating, on behalf of the EU, the representant of CSD17 Chair, her Excellency Gerda Verburg, on the outstanding work she has done with the last bureau to make CSD17 negotiations a success. It was indeed a huge challenge to reach agreement on a 35-page set of 278 decisions on issues as important as agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, together with their crucial interlinkages and crosscutting issues which remain, we believe, the heart of the CSD.

Let me also take the opportunity to warmly welcome UNDESA's set of new initiatives to improve the added value of CSD and its follow up, and especially to convene the present meeting which will help us concentrate more on implementation issues. Indeed, if agreeing on 278 decisions is a challenge, implementing them is an even greater challenge, one of the sustainable development challenges that no country or group of countries can face alone: all stakeholders have a role to play: Governments, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, regional groups and institutions, international financial institutions and major groups. The EU is committed to take its part in the implementation process and to continue cooperating on CSD decisions implementation with all partners and stakeholders along the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

On the substance, from the CSD17 decisions, the EU placed a special and immediate emphasis on adaptation of agriculture to climate change, the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as actions on water management, soil conservation and sustainable forest management. On the process, CSD 17 was particularly important for the EU, because it meant approaching those issues with a long-term broader perspective and better understanding of its many interlinkages. The lessons of CSD17 strengthened inter-ministerial coordination and integrated approach in many internal EU processes related to the CSD17 thematic issues.

In particular, CSD17 provided a unique momentum to position agriculture and food security higher on the international agenda, and to strengthen their relation with environment, development, trade, climate change, to name a few. The EU certainly built on CSD outcomes when engaging in high-level events which took place since May 2009, such as the G8 L'Aquila Summit, the African Union Summit in Sirte, the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh, culminating with the FAO World Food Summit in Rome. Since CSD17 successfully raised the issue of sustainable agriculture and food security in the international context, I am wondering if a copy of the CSD17 outcome document has been officially sent to the UN Secretary General's Special Representative, as a contribution to the high level report on food security.

When the EU established the €1 billion Food Facility at the end of 2008, we wanted to get it off the ground as quickly as possible to respond effectively to the food price crisis of 2007/8. Today, we can say the initiative is extremely effective around the world, thanks to the constructive cooperation with UN family organisations and effective coordination with other existing institutions. If the response is built on each agency's comparative advantages and if priorities are identified through inclusive needs assessments, it can lead to concrete results in a very short period of time. Nearly all of the €1 billion has been committed by now and many projects have become operational and will be implemented further in 2010 and 2011. At the

same time, the projects do support national strategies, where available, thus enhancing country ownership. In Africa, the geographic thematic cluster of CSD17, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) provides the ideal framework within which to operate with this and other assistance. The EU would also like to acknowledge the further development of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security since the completion of CSD17.

Mister chair, before entering into the details of implementation on some specific CSD17 thematic issues, let me give a word on other overarching issues of the past thematic cycle:

On development, just one month after CSD17, the EU Council adopted ambitious conclusions on integrating environment in development cooperation, that define the EU approach for supporting environment integration in developing countries and implementation priorities, suggesting also some follow up. Its annex provides guidance on how best to use a set number of policy tools in precise areas of intervention. Then in September, the European Commission, tabled its Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) 2009 report. Progress has been realised on various fronts, including on the interface between agriculture, trade and development policies in the EU, a clear lesson learned from the CSD. For the period 2010-2013 five priority areas have been identified for focal attention, including food security, which will also feed into the overall global debate on policy coherence.

On trade and finance, which is also a top priority under the PCD process, the EU continued to advocate the need to sustain efforts to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced outcome of the WTO/DDA round. The first agriculture negotiating sessions in 2010 started a few days ago and more substantive discussions are taking place this week. The worst of the financial crisis is waning but recovery remains fragile. A DDA deal by end-2010 should, amongst others, enhance the framework conditions for sustainable rural livelihoods, especially through increased investments in rural infrastructures.

Mister Chair

On climate change, the EU and its 27 MS have just expressed last Wednesday their willingness to be associated with the Copenhagen Accord and they have submitted their quantified economy-wide emissions reduction targets for 2020. Copenhagen fell short of EU's expectations, but the EU welcomes Copenhagen's progress on forestry and agriculture negotiations, particularly on REDD, those are particularly relevant to CSD17 thematic issues. But the EU will not wait for further international negotiations to start working and commit on sustainable forestry and adaptation of agriculture to climate change: the European Council welcomed in June the European Commission's White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change, which was accompanied by a Working Document dedicated to the adaptation needs in agriculture. It proposes an EU framework on adaptation to strengthen resilience to cope with impacts of a changing climate. One of the follow up actions of this white paper is a guidance document on adaptation to climate change in water management adopted in November 2009. This document includes guidance on how to take climate change into account in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, the EU Floods Directive and the EU Strategy on Water Scarcity and Droughts.

But CSD17 decisions on water were not only related to climate change adaptation, they also guided us on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The EU continues to support the implementation of the IWRM principles and plan at all levels with particular emphasis on

promoting water demand management and risk management policies for droughts and floods, integrating land use and climate change into IWRM and strengthening monitoring and follow up. Since CSD, the first River Basin Management Plans have been made available in the EU, those are now mandatory in the EU. Such plans are key implementation tools for IWRM at the basin level and would certainly provide examples to build such plans in other parts of the world. The EU remains committed to support developing countries efforts to implement IWRM plans.

On desertification and drought, apart from the extensive EU work on water, the EU still works in order to enhance efforts to reduce desertification and land degradation by encouraging the transfer, dissemination, and adaptation of appropriate technologies in affected countries, with the aim of accomplishing the objectives of the UNCCD Ten Year Strategic Plan, and speed up the implementation of the UNCCD COP-9 decisions. Those objectives are a key contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

On Cooperation with Africa, the EU gives top priority to the EU-Africa Strategy and preparations are intensifying on the 2010 Africa-EU Summit. The EU and the African Union are collaborating on a number of concrete partnerships ranging from energy to climate change, peace and security and science and research. In November, both an Agreement on implementation of the European Commission - African Union Commission Action Plan for the exchange of officials, as well as a Joint Action Plan for Administrative Cooperation (2010) were concluded. Most of the activities identified in the action plan centre on capacity building through sharing, learning, benchmarking and direct training.

Mister Chair,

There is no time to detail all the implementation actions undertaken by the EU on all the issues covered by CSD17. I should mention EU internal work on soils, on Sustainable Consumption and Production; on biodiversity But I will stop here and the EU remain available for further exchanges in implementation.

The EU will remain at the forefront to the global food security response and will also remain engaged in the international discussions on global governance for food security, on agricultural land acquisitions, agricultural research for development (especially with the forthcoming Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development –GCARD- that will take place in Montpellier next month), as well as on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and on how climate change impacts on agriculture in developing countries.

We are looking forward to engaging in the very fruitful dialogue and deliberations taking place today

I thank you for your attention.
