



Financing for Development – First informal consultations

20 March 2014

New York

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro*, Iceland⁺ and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, at the outset let me congratulate you on your appointment. Under your leadership we are confident that we will work effectively to fulfil the mandate in GA resolution 68/204.

We welcome this first open informal meeting, which brings transparency and inclusivity to a process that will be a crucial element to support the UN development agenda beyond 2015. We very much value the Financing for Development process and we appreciate that these consultations are being convened early, consistent with the provisions of the resolution.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

New important actors have emerged in the development arena, including from both the “for profit” and “not for profit” private sector. The understanding of what development means is evolving, with a greater focus on sustainability in all its dimensions, and on broader issues relating to governance, human rights and peace and security. Growth in emerging economies has become the key driver of the global economy. The GNI per capita of a few upper middle-income countries is higher than that of some European Union Member States. All these, and other issues, are of great relevance for a third international conference on financing for development which is expected to come up with a single, comprehensive, holistic and forward-looking approach addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. In our view the Conference should merge the Rio+20 financing strand and the Financing for Development follow-up process, and also build on the work of the processes related to the post-2015 framework.

We welcome resolution 68/204 and we are strongly of the view that our focus should be on ensuring a successful conference. With this objective in mind, we think that the conference should be underpinned by a common understanding based on the following elements:

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

⁺ Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

- o that each country has the primary responsibility for its own development and needs to have flexibility in implementation;
- o that an enabling environment, sound and coherent policies, as well as good governance, human rights and the rule of law are key in moving towards sustainable development and finance needs to be seen in the context of other means of implementation;
- o all financing sources (public and private, international and domestic) need to be mobilised and used strategically in a manner that maximises synergies and impact;
- o that international finance processes need to support synergies at national level between the various global goals;
- o that all countries should contribute their fair share; ODA remains an important and catalytic element and the most concessional international public financial flows, notably grants, should be rebalanced towards those countries most in need, including those in situations of fragility and
- o that there should be mutual accountability and transparency of all actors at both national and global level.

Building on these key elements, the EU and its Member States will continue contributing to the reflection on an integrated financial strategy framework which brings together different international financing discussions. The coherence of thematic financing streams and negotiations (e.g. climate change, biodiversity and desertification) needs to be ensured. In this context, we support the work of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. It is expected that this Committee of Experts will propose options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy, as a contribution to the financing for development follow-up process, as well as to an inter-governmentally agreed United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. The third International Financing for Development Conference will need to consider these options, along with other contributions including those contained in the upcoming SG synthesis report and the outcome of other multilateral efforts, including the Global Partnership for effective development cooperation, which will hold its first Ministerial meeting in Mexico next month.

In regard to the preparation for the Conference and its outcome, the EU and its Member States support efforts towards a focused preparatory period and a concise outcome document. We would also support the engagement of civil society, multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, and the private sector – including for profit businesses and investors, as well as the philanthropic community, and other relevant actors.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

In conclusion, we look forward to a constructive and open dialogue with all stakeholders on how best to take forward the discussion of financing for development, to support the UN development agenda beyond 2015. Ahead of the third international conference on financing for development we will continue to further define and adapt, as necessary, our position on financing and other means of implementation.

Thank you