



**Third International Conference on Financing for Development - third informal consultations
13 May 2014, New York**

**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
delivered by
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Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

- check against delivery -

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

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, 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, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

At the outset let me thank you for this 'Elements of a draft resolution' paper, which in our view is another useful step in deepening our conversation, following the discussion last month.

We very much appreciate the attempt to identify a number of core elements which can be the basis of a modalities resolution, however it is in our view preferable to firm up as many elements as possible already now, so that the agenda would be clear from the beginning on what we are setting out to achieve.

More specifically on the elements paper itself, we have the following comments;

On the scope as stated in the two previous informal consultations, we firmly believe that the conference should build on Monterrey and Doha, with an outcome which is coherent and coordinated and avoids duplication of efforts.

* 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.

Additionally, this paper reminds us that the scope of the conference is contained in GA resolution 68/204, in its entirety. We would like to highlight in particular paragraph 41 which welcomes output of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) as a contribution to this conference. In this regard it is important that the Conference, besides the elements listed in your preamble, also takes into account the outcome of the ICESDF and the synthesis report of the Secretary General due in the autumn this year.

The ICESDF discussions have taken a comprehensive and forward-looking approach of the Financing for Development process, which is crucial in moving forward. In this context we welcome the participation in this meeting of one of the co-chairs of the ICESDF.

We continue to value the conceptual framework of Monterrey, that was at the time expressed in six chapters/themes. As stated in general terms in paragraph 43 of GA resolution 68/204, an updated conceptual framework should reflect the evolving global landscape and changing world economic balance. It should better reflect the evolving role and inter-relationship of all forms of cooperation and partnership and all sources of finance from all actors. Additionally it should promote the effective and efficient use of all resources, including through policy measures, increased transparency and the wider enabling environment.

In regard to the format we agree with the elements you highlight in your paper, especially in relation to the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the World Bank Group, IMF, and WTO, along with participation from other UN entities especially the regional economic commissions, for both the preparation and the conference itself. The increasing importance of civil society, philanthropic organisations and the private sector cannot be overemphasised, and therefore we should integrate them thoroughly into our discussions.

The outcome of the conference should result in an updated framework that takes into account the implementation of the post 2015 agenda as well as relevant international agreements, notably climate and biodiversity related agreements. It is our view that only in this way can it ensure a single, comprehensive, holistic and forward looking approach addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development, that is useful in supporting progress in each country.

On organisation, it would be necessary that the Conference and its preparatory process are as light as possible and do not place an undue burden on the UN budget. With this in mind it is difficult for us to see the duration of the Conference go beyond 3 days.

On location we welcome the offer of the Government of Ethiopia to host the Conference.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

In conclusion we reaffirm the importance we attach to means of implementation and a new global partnership for the success of the post 2015 framework, and acknowledge that, in light of this, regardless of the chosen date for this conference, there needs to be an opportunity to discuss financing, means of implementation and related issues comprehensively. We also acknowledge the importance of other international negotiations and the need to consider how these will relate to our discussions on sustainable development financing. We look forward to a constructive and open dialogue with all stakeholders on how best to take forward the discussion on financing for development, and to support the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

Thank you