



**Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations
Follow-up and review session**

**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
on targets
21 May 2015**

- The EU would like to thank the co-facilitators for the revised document which has taken into consideration many constructive suggestions made at the session in March.
- Overall, important progress has been made in the overall efforts to make the targets more specific, measurable and consistent with and not less ambitious than existing UN standards and agreements and international legal frameworks.
- What is suggested in the revised paper is from our perspective in most cases satisfactory. In particular we welcome the new addition to 14.c on UNCLOS [and the proposal to retain the OWG language on 3.b.].
- The filling of the “x”s has in most cases been solved adequately and we appreciate the alignment of two targets with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), thus facilitating the coherence between relevant global processes. On 4b we note that a better formulation would be to say "Expand globally the number of scholarships ...".
- With regard to the timelines on biodiversity, we can also note overall progress but we have continued concerns about two of the targets.
 - In target 6.6 on water related ecosystems, the explanatory rationale or added-value of changing the OWG text is not well established.
 - There are also concerns, for similar reasons, for target 15.2. The EU can only accept part of the proposed adjustment (the term "substantially").
 - In both cases we prefer to maintain the OWG timeline of 2020 but with the same addition as in 15.1 and 15.5 for further action to be taken as needed through to 2030.
- In relation to humanitarian emergencies, which is a policy priority for the EU, we are ready to listen to the views of other countries on whether it is opportune to integrate at this stage the specific proposal made and whether or not the post-2015 negotiations should tackle the very important issue of the link between humanitarian aid and sustainable development.
- In conclusion, we trust you co-facilitators will be able to further refine the issues just noted and we thank you again for your leadership.