



**Follow-up to, and review of, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Plenary meeting convened by the co-facilitators
EU statement
United Nations, New York, 17 March 2016**

Distinguished co-facilitators,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment. We count on your guidance to lead us through this important process.

For the EU and its Member States, a strong follow-up and review framework is key to help accelerate progress on the implementation of the comprehensive Agenda 2030, foster broad ownership and partnership, and promote accountability and inclusivity. It should be comprehensive, open, transparent and effective. It should build upon what already exists, yet respond to the new Agenda's call for approaching things differently. It should also help catalyse political commitment and action, meaning that the HLPF should be made attractive enough to sustain political interest over the years. Finally, the HLPF should be relevant: it needs to add value to efforts at the country level.

Let me be very clear. We are open on means, but firm on the objective: a follow-up and review system that delivers.

As we highlighted during the informal exchange of views convened by the PGA on 5 February, we consider that the SG Report provides us with a good basis for moving forward on this important agenda. We welcome the effort at a holistic approach for a global follow-up and review framework in keeping with the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the Agenda 2030 and fully reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The first step as we move towards filling the gaps left in this summer's documents will be to define the scope of the exercise. Clearly, some decisions are more urgent than others: they should be prioritised. These include the division of labour between the different fora; the multi-year programme of work of the HLPF including the questions of themes and thematic reviews; the mechanisms for "feeding into the HLPF". These issues also condition the programme of work of other bodies, such as the functional commissions.

On the others, it may make sense not to rush so as to fully integrate lessons learned from the 2016 exercise. But the process that you will co-facilitate should nonetheless provide clarity on how and when outstanding issues will be addressed. In particular, a key task will be that of enhancing system-wide coherence. We should also remember that the resolutions on the organisation of work and modalities of the ECOSOC (61/16, 68/1) and the HLPF (67/290) will be reviewed in the coming years.

Let me also underline that in order for the follow-up and review process to be successful, we need an efficient UN Secretariat that “delivers as one”. The upcoming consultations should include consideration of the organisational implications for the Secretariat of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of maximising its effectiveness.

Finally, we expect the co-facilitators to coordinate with, and be mindful of, other linked processes currently underway: on the GSDR, the FfD Forum, the 2C revitalisation, the preparations for different 2016 meetings including the HLPF, the budgetary implications of the 2030 Agenda for the UN, and the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN Development System. We hope that you will work closely with the ECOSOC Bureau in order to ensure maximum coherence in what is already a complex set-up and sequencing. In that regard, we need more clarity on the relationship between the Resolution that you have been tasked to co-facilitate and the Ministerial Declaration of this year's HLPF/High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC. We should not exclude the possibility of including certain elements pertinent to follow-up and review in the Declaration, alongside the results of the GSDR consultations currently underway. The EU and its Member States remain committed to a successful HLPF in 2016.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

We wish you all the best in this endeavour, and stand ready to assist you to the best of our abilities over the coming months.

Thank you.