



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
23 March 2015 - Session on sustainable development goals and targets**

Co-facilitators,

[FOR INDICATOR SESSION]

Let me first thank you for your efforts and updates. On the first day of this session, we want to share the following main points. We are ready to come back during the week and will also share our views on Friday as foreseen in the programme on the issue of coordination with the Financing for Development Process.

- We recognize the crucial role of indicators in the reporting and monitoring of the post 2015 development agenda. A robust framework of indicators will promote timely and relevant implementation of the new agenda and is a necessary condition for its success, as well as broader accountability.
- We believe the development of indicators should primarily be a technical process. Hence, we appreciate the ongoing work of the UN Statistical Commission as reflected in the document circulated on 18 March. It shows that further work is needed and we strongly support the process ahead that the Commission has agreed (as set out in the Friends of the Chair Roadmap) for elaborating a global indicators framework for the SDGs. The work on indicators must include a broader set of UN and other international actors, in particular the Friends of the Chair, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG), the UN Task Team and the scientific community, as well as National Statistic Offices and other specialist bodies.
- Indicators need to provide a measure of the overall progress in each target. They need to be policy relevant, understandable, and clearly communicated. They should, to the extent possible, build on existing

international indicators and monitoring systems in order to avoid duplication and to make efficient use of resources. Existing indicators may be further refined and new indicators may be developed in many areas to follow technical and other progress.

- We believe that relevant quantitative and qualitative indicators need to be gender and age sensitive, and based on disaggregated data.

- Indicators should address the breadth and richness of the targets in a balanced way. This should not result in over-simplifying targets. It is important to ensure the level of ambition and the transformation sought, and implies making sure that important aspects of targets are not lost, so as to ensure that the integrated nature of goals and targets is well captured.

- There is however a need to limit the total number of global indicators while respecting the breadth of the targets. This could be done by selecting, when possible, indicators that respond simultaneously to various targets under different goals. This will contribute to a more integrated agenda that embeds mainstreaming and interlinkages, and the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. On these matters we would welcome further updates from the UNSC on how this is progressing, since it is important to ensure that the substance of targets is adequately covered.

- Global indicators should be supported by national and regional indicators. While this allows addressing some additional aspects, the global indicators also need to allow for comparability and aggregation and track overall progress and should therefore be used by all countries.

- The development of indicators should not be rushed and will need to continue beyond September 2015, with a view to their finalisation by the UN Statistical Commission at their next meeting in March 2016. At the same time, we believe that a political affirmation of the importance of indicators and an acknowledgement of the progress and orientation of the work underway should be included in the Summit "package possibly taking note of the work on indicators achieved so far.