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Statement by

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on behalf of the European Union

Development Cooperation Forum

Geneva, 5 July 2007

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EU Statement

Development Cooperation Forum

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to speak at this historic occasion on behalf of the European Union. The Council, the Commission, the President of the Council, the President of the Commission, the Heads of State or Government of the Republics of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our heads of state and government in 2005 decided to hold a biennial high-level

[REDACTED] strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational

[REDACTED] It is a great honor for the EU to participate in this launch at a time where the United Nations reform is taking strides to improve the Organization's efficiency, including improving the process of system-wide coherence. As we have stated in previous occasions, the EU is committed to a strong and coherent United Nations at the heart of an effective multilateralism, which is designed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century such as poverty eradication, sustainable development

[REDACTED] countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally

[REDACTED] dialogue on development cooperation

[REDACTED] As a major donor, the EU is fully engaged in the ongoing discussions on system-wide coherence and is committed to contributing 57% of global efforts, and committed to reaching the target of 0,7% of GNP for ODA

by 2015, the EU welcomes the DCF as an opportunity to discuss ways and means on how best to enhance the implementation of international development cooperation instruments and to effect the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other international development objectives.

We recognize the increasing calls for the implementation of the global partnership for development in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In this regard, the EU is looking forward to the

review the implementation of the Monterrey Goals in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the

useful contribution to that process.

Mr. President,

At this midpoint on the road to 2015, the launching of this Forum in 2007 is particularly symbolic. The EU is confident that, coupled with the Annual Ministerial Reviews of the ECOSOC, the DCF will prove its value-added toward the fulfillment and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other international development objectives.

European Union fully expects that the DCF will become an important part of the international discussion on the development cooperation agenda and the global partnership for development of the United Nations system for economic, social and environmental matters.

The DCF could be an important coordination and cooperation mechanism in a context of an array of multilateral and bilateral players' existence, a growing number of new donor countries and increasing number of special purpose global funds, added to the growing role of Non Governmental Organizations and the private sector in development cooperation. The very fact that this Forum is open to participation by all stakeholders, including the organizations of the

It is only through a truly participatory dialogue with all development cooperation actors and some challenges and obstacles. The realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other international development objectives including the Millennium Development Goals and other international development objectives. We warmly welcome the presence here today of our partners and stakeholders and look forward to the opportunity for an open and substantive discussions with all of you in the coming days towards the goal of reaching the MDGs.

by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in organizing the first high-level symposium in Vienna last April, with particular focus on key

Mr. President,

Regarding the agenda of the DCF, the European Union considers important that the Forum could also address issues like aid architecture, the implementation of the Paris Declaration, and the role of new and emerging donors. This dialogue should also continue to ensure that international principles relevant to development cooperation, such as the principles of functional cooperation and leadership, are fully taken into account by all stakeholders.

Today's discussion in the two roundtables on the themes "Identifying gaps and obstacles to enhance coherence and effectiveness and promote development cooperation" and "Reviewing trends and progress to promote more effective international development cooperation: South-South and triangular cooperation" will provide our substantive discussions on the key themes before us at this forum and will serve as a good foundation for future discussions.

We meet here after several days of high-level discussions related to the important theme of the eradication of poverty and hunger. We have diagnosed the global situation and how to act to end poverty and ensure that economic growth translates into reductions in poverty, we have looked into root causes of poverty and how best to address them and we have detailed how national, regional and international actions can lead us to attaining Millennium Goal 1 on the reduction of poverty and hunger. Certainly, the discussions that we will have during the Development Cooperation Forum will continue under the ever ongoing collaborative work that we have already started.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we look forward to beginning our truly global dialogue at the Development Cooperation Forum.

Thank you.