



*Mr Chairman,*

The European Union is committed to fully playing its part to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will also assist others in their efforts in the spirit of a strong global partnership.

The EU and its Member States remain the largest provider of Official Development Assistance in the world. We increased our Official Development Assistance to EUR 68 billion in 2015. This is a 15% increase from 2014. I am personally committed to continuing with ambitious financial support to our partner countries.

Official Development Assistance is an important tool we have at our disposal to finance the new global agenda. It may not be the most important one, but it does have a catalytic effect.

17 billion sovereign climate finance announcements made in the run-up to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Another example of early implementation of the Addis commitments is our approach on domestic resource mobilisation, which I refer to as '*Collect More – Spend Better*'. We plan to support developing countries' efforts to improve their tax systems, without increasing the tax burden on the poor.

The EU is taking action in other areas, including supporting private sector in developing countries, leveraging investment through blending and promoting the role of girls and women in development.

Our ambition for the months ahead is to go even further. EU development policy needs to be able to respond effectively to the Addis and 2030 Agendas. I regard a new consensus on development at EU level as an essential element to shape EU policies and cooperation with partner countries to deliver on the SDGs. I personally attach great importance to getting this process right. I believe that a broad, open and inclusive consultation, where all stakeholders participate would be an essential element of this process.

*Mr Chairman,*

Allow me to dedicate the final part of my intervention to the issue of follow up and review. This is a vital aspect, on which this Forum is uniquely placed to ensure real progress.

The Addis Agenda is a means to an end; it is about supporting countries to successfully implement the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. For the 17 goals to be achieved we must ensure that the follow-up and review processes of these two Agendas are coherent and mutually supportive.

The annual Financing for Development Forum should be comprehensive. It should be *the* place to take stock and review, all aspects of the Addis Agenda and Agenda 2030 Means of Implementation while allowing for broad participation. Its outcome should feed into the High Level Political Forum.

