

# **STATEMENT**

**BY COMMISSIONER NEVEN MIMICA**

**at the High Level Political Forum  
on Sustainable Development**

**New York, 17 July 2017**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement **on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.**

Almost two years into the 15-year timetable, the Secretary General's progress report on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda shows that **much remains to be done.**

The European Union and our Member States remain **fully committed** to implementing the 2030 Agenda **at home and internationally.** We consider it and the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change** as essential and complementary steps on a pathway towards more sustainable and resilient future.

Let's face it – **when it comes to achieving sustainability – we are all developing countries.** We all have work to do.

**Ten more EU Member States** will present their Voluntary National Reviews this year – on top of four last year, and several others on track for next year.

**Within the EU,** we are implementing the 2030 Agenda in two strands of work.

**Firstly,** we are **mainstreaming** the Sustainable Development Goals into our **current** European Union policies.

Since the last High-Level Political Forum, we have:

- reaffirmed our commitment to the **Paris climate change agreement**;
- adopted a **Nature Action Plan** to protect biodiversity;
- agreed an ambitious **energy policy**, which also addresses social, environmental and competitiveness issues;
- adopted a **European Pillar of Social Rights** and conducted an in-depth **report on equality between women and men** in the European Union;

and

- have been working on better directing finance towards **sustainable investment**.

**Furthermore**, we are looking at our longer-term vision for **implementation beyond 2020**. This will include a **multi-stakeholder SDG platform** to exchange views on the key areas where additional EU efforts will be needed.

We will **report regularly on progress** with implementation, starting this year.

**Externally**, the 2016 EU **Global Strategy** for Foreign and Security Policy provides a vision for joined-up, credible and responsive EU engagement in the world, and places sustainable development at its heart.

And on 7 June this year, we signed a **new European Consensus on Development**, a framework for development policy for the European Union institutions and for all our Member States fully aligned with the

2030 Agenda. It signals a new era of more coordinated and effective EU action in development.

Like the 2030 Agenda, it is framed around the '**five Ps**' and approaches the economic, social and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner. It addresses other **interconnected challenges**, such as humanitarian action, security, migration, environment, and climate change.

It reaffirms our commitment to a **rules-based global order**, with **multilateralism and the United Nations at its core**, and underlines our intention to work more closely with all our partners and **countries at all stages of development**.

We will continue to target our assistance to the **least-developed and conflict-affected countries**. And strengthen our partnerships with **Middle Income and more advanced developing countries**, in order to address rising **inequalities**.

We will continue to promote **Policy Coherence for Development** as part of the broader objective of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

Through a new **European External Investment Plan**, we will provide financial, technical and policy support to lower the risk and increase the flow of investment, particularly from the private sector, to areas where it would otherwise not go.

And in September, we will launch a **major initiative with the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls**. With dedicated financing, and a renewed policy dialogue with partner countries, we will capitalise on our respective strengths in a true partnership approach.

This **High-Level Political Forum**, including the Voluntary National Reviews and other reports, is a **vital part of a robust global monitoring and review process**, which will enable us to take stock, adjust as needed, and ultimately to make the 2030 Agenda a success.

Let me end by reiterating this:

For the European Union and our Member States **the 2030 Agenda is not optional – or reversible**.

It remains **our best chance** of creating a better world for all.

We will implement it **enthusiastically at home**.

And we will work **constructively and tirelessly** with all our partners across the globe to ensure that, together, we leave no one behind.

(680 words)