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**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

by

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at the

**First Meeting**

**of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalisation of the General Assembly**

**New York**

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**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Excellencies,

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

The Candidate Countries Croatia\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* and Montenegro\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Serbia, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, a member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

At the outset, I would like to express out gratitude to the two previous Co-Chairs, the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Slovenia for the excellent work they did. I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his swift appointment of the PR of Lithuania, H.E. Mr. Dalius Čekuolis and the PR of St.Vincent and the Grenadines, H.E. Mr. Camillo Gonsalves as current co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by GA Resolution 64/301.

We are confident that the Working Group will focus its deliberations on concrete and tangible measures under your able stewardship. The EU therefore welcomes the Co-Chairs' call for concrete and targeted interventions at today's meeting, thus preparing the ground for more focused and interactive discussions at the forthcoming meetings. Let me therefore take this opportunity to succinctly present the EU priorities in our common endeavour to reinvigorate the General Assembly.

The Treaty of Lisbon reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its core. For us, strengthening the United Nations and the efficiency of its work are top priorities. We believe that the General Assembly should focus on topical issues relevant to the entire membership of the United Nations and the international community. Hence, concrete initiatives are necessary to revitalize the General Assembly.

From the EU perspective, the Working Group should focus its deliberations on the working methods of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. In this regard, the scheduling of High-Level Meetings and Thematic Debates needs to be enhanced and the topicality of such events should be increased. On a more technical level, electronic voting systems, documentation management and timely translation merit further attention by the Working Group. A briefing on technical aspects related to the conduct of electronic voting might prove useful for the discussion of this matter in the Working Group.

As regards the conduct of the comprehensive review of the inventory contained in document A/63/959, the EU wishes to underline that OP 3 of A/RES/64/301 requests the Secretary-General to submit an update of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalisation with an indication of the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation. The Co-Facilitators might extend an invitation to the sponsors of specific resolutions to provide information on the reasons for non-implementation.

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\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We highly appreciate the High-Level Meetings and Thematic Debates, especially during the time of the General Debate, and the value added they have. At the same time, we need to look at issues such as scheduling issues carefully. In this regard, the role of the General Committee and the President of the General Assembly might be further explored. Building on its consideration of the issue, the Working Group might provide indicative guidance in its report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

As to the rationalisation and streamlining of the agendas of the GA and its Main Committees, we are of the opinion that it would be appropriate to examine thoroughly the possibilities for further biennialization or triennialization of items, as well as clustering and elimination of items. The Main Committees might facilitate this task through evaluating the topicality and frequency of agenda items allocated for consideration.

Drawing on past experience, we consider expert briefings a useful tool to stimulate the deliberations of the Working Group. In view of the efforts undertaken to streamline the work of the Second Committee, a briefing by its Chairman to the Working Group might be equally envisaged.

Finally, I would like to assure the Co-Chairs of the full cooperation of the EU. We remain open to discuss suggestions and ideas from others.

Thank you.