UNECE

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Statement by

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on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Geneva, 1 December 2011
Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

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, Montenegro*¹ and Iceland**², the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

As one of the themes of the Rio+20 Conference, green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication offers an unique opportunity to tackle some of today's pressing global challenges: eradicating poverty, ensuring inclusive growth, and combating environmental degradation. The outcomes at Rio+20 need to accelerate and broaden the world-wide transition towards a green economy that promotes sustainable development and contributes to poverty eradication around the world.

The green economy offers win-win opportunities to all countries, regardless of the structure of their economy and their level of development. Green economy is more than the sum of existing commitments: it has the potential to lead us to a new development paradigm and new business models where growth, development and environment are mutually reinforcing.

Increasing resource efficiency, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, tackling climate change, protecting biodiversity, combating desertification, reducing pollution as

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¹ *Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

² **Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.**
well as using and managing natural resources and ecosystems in a sustainable and socially responsible manner are the bases for enabling a just transition to a green economy.

One of the main operational outcomes of the Rio+20 should be the adoption of a green economy roadmap with deadlines for specific goals, objectives and actions at international level. Such actions should also be complimented by national actions based on national priorities.

International action should act as beacons: encouraging and promoting action on key areas and sectors such as:

- Water, food and agriculture, and energy, with international partnerships and goals
- Fisheries and the marine environment, to tackle unregulating fishing and protection of areas beyond national jurisdiction,
- Sustainable management and restoration of natural resources and ecosystem services,
- Chemicals, sustainable management of waste.
- And sustainable urban development.

Each of these are fundamental to building the basis of the green economy.

Other possible deliverables for the green economy and of a cross-cutting nature include:

- Further develop and strengthen indicators complementing GDP that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced manner,
- Adopt a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) as negotiated at CSD 19,
- Establish a capacity development scheme to provide country-specific advice, and, where appropriate, region and sector-specific advice to all interested countries on enabling the transition to the green economy in national contexts,
- Establish a mechanism for international research cooperation on major sustainable development challenges,
- Launch an international process to promote the role of innovative and private instruments of finance,
- Ensure commitments to gradually eliminate subsidies that have considerable negative effects on the environment and to promote further use of market based instruments,
As part of the transition to a green economy we must significantly improve engagement and make full use of the private sector, in particular SMEs - both in developed and developing countries -, through providing the right incentives, as well as the involvement of civil society, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

This outlines some of the EU’s main priorities for achieving the transition to a green economy, and form the basis of the EU’s submission on the green economy for Rio+20. Finally, we would like to underline that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model. Green economy policies have to be designed nationally and regionally, taking into account the needs, specific circumstances and starting points of individual countries.

Thank you for your attention.