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Ministerial Environment Forum
Nairobi, 20 – 22 February 2012**

Ministerial consultations

**Item 4: “Moderated plenary discussion on Rio+20 and beyond:
responding to the challenges”**

(Wednesday 22 February, 10:00-13:00 a.m.)

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

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Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

At Rio we need to demonstrate to the world that sustainable development really can and will deliver for this generation and generations to follow. Whatever the state of economic development of our countries, Rio should deliver on our economic, social and environmental challenges. We need political leadership to mobilise all actors, public and private, in order to ensure an ambitious outcome at Rio+20.

Let me turn briefly to the issues under negotiation in New York. We are pleased to see such a full range of areas, representing what is central to inclusive green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and we need as much clarity as possible in our targets, actions and timeframes.

The institutional reforms should be closely connected to the green economy agenda – they should reflect this agenda and be enabled to

monitor, support and steer it. We are convinced about the need to reinforce at the same time both the international environmental governance and the wider institutional framework on sustainable development.

However, we tend to forget that institutional reform is not only about the UN. We should also engage with international financial institutions and the global trade system to work towards achieving sustainability.

In the remaining months we should facilitate the active participation of all major groups and relevant stakeholders in the ongoing preparation of Rio+20 and in the subsequent implementation of its outcomes, thus paving our path towards a greener, equitable economy. If we are true to the statements of many here in Nairobi, this can become the conference of the non-state actors.

Let me stress that there are also a number of issues that require international agreement to be truly meaningful. Therefore besides all the national, business, civil society and other commitments, we would like Rio to agree also a set of global actions.

Finally, let me assure you that the EU is ready to listen and cooperate with others regions to make Rio a success.
