The European Union welcomes this conference and the state of Qatar for its warm hospitality and important contribution to sustainable development cooperation.

The European Union remains committed to multilateralism and to forging a strategic alliance with the UN system, the UN development system serves this common endeavor and the commitment of all the stakeholders is important.

The European Union sees the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a game changer, establishing a new sustainable development paradigm, with responsibilities for all, the primacy of domestic actions, importance of good policies and non-financial means of implementation.

The European Union renewed its policy framework, the new European Consensus on development sets out a collective vision for the EU and its Member states, it commits us to work better together to maximize the EU's development impact by mobilizing and making effective the use of all means of implementation.

The European Union and its Member states remain the largest provider of official development assistance in the world. In 2016, collective EU development assistance increased for the 4th consecutive year reaching 75,5 Billion Euros. This is our highest ever level, representing close to 60% of total global ODA efforts. The EU is committed to achieving the 0,70% ODA/GNI target within the time frame of the 2030 agenda.

The EU's ambitious External Investment Plan (EIP) will encourage investment in our partner countries in Africa and the EU neighborhood. It will promote job creation and sustainable development, crowding in, among others, private investors.

The European Commission is currently coordinating a financing for development report, to be issued in April 2018, it will demonstrate how EU actions have contributed to mobilizing financing for development from various sources (domestic and international, public and private), it will monitor progress in the last two years for both the EU and its Member states.