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Speaker: Permanent representative of Sweden, on behalf of the European Union

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Thank you very much.

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,  
Mr President of the General Assembly,  
Madam Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the beginning, there were fifty-one nations. Committed to international peace and security. Sharing the common goal of developing friendly relations among nations. Promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

Today, the fifty-one nations of the first General Assembly have become one-hundred and ninety-two. Today, the General Assembly really is the town hall meeting of the world.

On behalf of the twenty-seven Member States of the European Union, I bring a message of cooperation and partnership. A message that our Union is open to the outside world.

Globalization is good. Through globalization, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. Information, ideas and inventions. Goods and services. It all moves more quickly from one country to another.

We prosper from this. It enlightens us. It helps us understand the ways of other parts of the world.

But at the same time, globalization means that one nation's problems will also come knocking at the doors of other nations.

Pandemics, food crises, organized crime. Trafficking in drugs and humans. Terrorism, violent ideologies. No longer limited by borders. No longer only one nation's problem. And so, we have to manage the risks and the threats that follow.

In this work, we need the United Nation's broad-based legitimacy for international actions and norms to coordinate our efforts. And the United Nations, for its part, has to adapt to stay relevant and to be able to address the issues before us. The European Union wishes to contribute to these efforts.

We welcome the declared wish of the United States to work together with others in the multilateral institutions. This opens the door to a promising new era in international cooperation.

We are facing one of the biggest challenges of our time and our generation. Our world has a fever. And the fever is rising.

In the most vulnerable of the world's nations the consequences of climate change will be alarming. Starvation, severe flooding and climate migration will be a reality - even if we keep to the two-degree target set by the UN.

No doubt, developed countries will have to lead the fight against climate change. We will have to reduce emissions by twenty-five to forty per cent from 1990 levels to 2020.

But for emissions to peak by no later than 2020 - for them to be reduced by at least fifty per cent by 2050 and continue to decline thereafter - our efforts alone will not be enough.

The developing countries need our help. They need our help to pay the bill that we, through our emissions, have contributed to.

That is why the European Union last week agreed to start discussions on how much climate financing is needed in developing countries. That is why we are taking concrete steps. That is why we are putting one more brick into the negotiations. And we urge other developed countries to do the same.

At the meeting of the leaders of G8 and Major Economies Forum in Italy this summer there was agreement on the two degree target.

Now, we need to see increased commitment. Concrete mid-term targets by developed as well as developing countries.

If we want our children, and their children, to experience nature as we know it; we must act now. And every nation or group of nations has to do its part.

The EU is willing to do its part.

We will reduce our emissions. We will promote low carbon growth, contribute our fair share of financing and support adaptation worldwide. And we will remain committed to playing a leading role in bringing about a global and comprehensive climate agreement in Copenhagen in December of this year.

What started out as the pursuit of easy money, unhealthy risk-taking and, in some cases, pure greed, escalated this last year into a financial roller-coaster. The effects on both human security and development have been severe.

The European Union will continue to promote global financial stability and sustainable world recovery.

Firmly committed to taking comprehensive, targeted and coordinated action to support developing countries, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable.

Determined to reach a comprehensive agreement of the Doha Round, making sure it contains elements of real value for developing countries, particularly the poorest.

Continuing efforts to lift more people out of poverty in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and to achieve our respective Official Development Assistance targets.

Human rights are universal. Human rights are indivisible.

The European Union is a voice for human rights. We believe in democracy. We believe in the rule of law.

The European Union will continue to call for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. In all cases. Under all circumstances.

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