**Talking points for a possible EU intervention at the Twenty-fourth session of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council**

18 February 2020, Palais des Nations, Room XX

**"Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms"**

* Thank the drafting group of Advisory Committee for their work during the first phase. The questions to states and other interested stakeholders point out some of the very important challenges.
* The EU is a strong supporter of all efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. We are also a strong believer in the need for a gender-balanced representation across UN system.
* We see this as an essential step towards bringing about structural change needed to advance substantive gender equality and gender parity in line with the Secretary-General’s system-wide strategy on gender parity.
* As we have said in the past, elimination of all forms of discrimination will become a reality only through a comprehensive and systematic work towards the achievement of gender equality.
* Such work should include affirmative measures to eradicate barriers that could result in acts of discrimination against women. Consideration of gender balance should indeed play role when nominating, electing and appointing experts for human rights organs, as well as for treaty bodies and the Advisory Committee.
* While some good practices have been recognized, we agree that it would be very important to have a more encompassing assessment of the situation to enable clearer conclusions on the current state of gender-parity oriented policies and possible concrete guidance on this.
* I thank you.