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**EU INTERVENTION**

**Human Rights Council**

**Fifth Intersessional Meeting for Dialogue and Cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

***Overcoming multiple crises: realising the SDGs through a human rights enhancing economy***

**19 January 2023**

Thank you, Mr Chair.

The current crises the world is facing, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, as well as the food and energy crises that have been caused or exacerbated by the illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, are threatening the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The most vulnerable in society in the poorest countries have been affected primarily. The EU is set on resolving these crises together to get the achievement of the SDG’s back on track.

While facing these crises, the European Union and its Member States have remained firmly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to effectively contributing to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

The SDG’s are fundamentally about raising human wellbeing for all, with a particular focus on those at risk of being left behind.

Safeguarding human wellbeing for the future requires transitioning to decarbonised societies, but this can only be successful through a just transition.

The strong human rights and gender-responsive focus of the SDG-agenda provides us with the best compass.

Our work here, at the Human Rights Council, in promoting and protecting human rights is essential to the SDG implementation process.

If we are to be serious about “leaving no one behind”, we all need to honour and step up our commitments and strengthen partnerships.

Mr Chair, the number of people without access to safe water is expected to reach 2 billion by 2025.

The EU’s support to safe, climate resilient, available, acceptable, accessible, and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene is extensive and global, both on financial and structural terms.

Over the last decade, through development cooperation, we invested more than 2.5 billion EUR in water and sanitation in 62 countries.

We have also developed guidelines on economic, social, and cultural rights on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, creating a reference framework and working tool for our EU delegations around the world.

We look forward to strengthening cooperation on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation at the UN Water Conference in March 2023.

The Conference will be an opportunity to anchor firmly human rights to the efforts the international community needs to make in order to accelerate progress to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

Mr Chair, the multiple crises we are all facing today reinforce the need for accelerating progress in the transformation pathways that are required by the 2030 Agenda.

Scaling up commitment and action on SDGs implementation will ensure that the recovery is human rights based, inclusive, and sustainable while contributing to resilient societies.

Overcoming these crises, the EU and its Member States are determined to transform our economic model and overall resilience, with the SDGs as our compass.

Thank you.