

2 April 2014

Message during the lecture of the General Assembly President at the United Nations University (UNU)

"A Post-2015 Development Agenda without adequate means of implementation will be doomed to repeat the very failures of the (Millennium Development Goals) MDGs," underscored United Nations General Assembly President, John W. Ashe, speaking to youth and academics during his lecture at the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo, held as part of his official State visit to Japan, 1-4 April 2014.

Hosted in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan, President Ashe's lecture focused on his theme for the 68th Session of the General Assembly: "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!", wherein President Ashe explained that the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with its overarching goal of poverty eradication, is intended to break with business as usual.

Outlining his vision, the GA President informed that he hopes to enrich the debate on key thematic areas which UN Member States have identified as priorities for the new Agenda, and thus contribute toward the successful conclusion of the mandated processes issuing from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20; namely, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Financing for Sustainable Development, and the Transfer of Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In the end, the President aspires to lay the groundwork for the convergence of these processes, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition into the launch of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that will commence during the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

President Ashe's official travel to Japan included meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fumia Kishida; as well as senior officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. President Ashe also engaged with parliamentarians, academicians, and other members of civil society.

President Ashe encouraged Japanese officials to take a leading role in areas such as the means of implementation, disaster risk reduction, and climate change. In his encounter with the Inter-parliamentary Group on Human Security, he emphasized and received support for the continued importance of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the need for the Post-2015 Development Agenda to build on the achievements of those Goals, while addressing their shortcomings. One parliamentarian likened the post-2015 development process to a coming of age of the MDGs. As he sets the stage for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, President Ashe hopes to take this process to a new level of maturity.

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson