



Remarks

by

H.E. Ambassador John W. Ashe

President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

New York

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On the Adoption of the “Outcome Document of the Special Event to follow up

Efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals”

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present for adoption the outcome document, which was endorsed by Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation at last week's Special Event to follow up Efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

At the outset, I wish to highlight that this outcome document is, first and foremost, a call for action in the accelerated commitment to address the gaps and unevenness in the MDG process and to respond to the formidable challenges that remain on the path to their fulfillment.

Many of you will no doubt recall that, at the Special Event, I invited our Secretary General to compile a matrix of commitments pledged by member States, International Organizations, Private Sector Partners and Civil Society associated with the acceleration of the achievement of the MDGs. The final results will soon be made available to you, but initially there has been a mobilization of more than \$3 billion and actions and pledges coming from dozens of countries. With some 825 days left to go, we must remain vigilant in our collective quest to fulfill the MDGs.

Excellencies,

The document that I present today for your adoption also sets the initial signposts to define an ambitious and inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

Our collective commitment to this text should catalyze a final push to create real and meaningful change by making further progress on the MDGs and by defining the contours of a development agenda, with the potential to impact the trajectory of sustainable development for decades to come. Such an agreement required a collective sense of partnership by all parties.

I pay tribute to your collective efforts, under the able leadership of the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and South Africa, whom I wish to commend today for their tireless efforts.

I also wish to highlight the invaluable stewardship of the Secretary General and his dedicated team for their efforts at ensuring systemic commitment to an integrated development framework.

Excellencies,

I readily acknowledge the fact that this outcome document – however significant - represents just a first step in a series of efforts that will require us to work collectively between now and 2015, if we are to achieve the dual goals of fulfilling the remaining MDGs and launching a successor arrangement that is the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Today, more than ever before, the depth, breadth and scope of these twin challenges require our concerted effort and collective action. This means that new levels of support, collaboration and partnership will be needed from all stakeholders.

Earlier this week, we heard how reliable financing will be critical in driving this dual-track process. Countries will need to make every effort to mobilize domestic resources, yet at the same time, there is a vital role, and need, for donor countries to meet their Official Development (ODA) commitments, including through the provision of reliable and timely financial resources.

During this session of the General Assembly, a number of ongoing processes will begin to converge in preparations for consideration and – ultimately- negotiations- at the start of the 69th session. The outcome document speaks to these processes, emphasizing the need to achieve meaningful, balanced and forward-looking agreements and results within

the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Expert Group on Financing for Sustainable Development and on the definition of options for a mechanism facilitating the transfer of technology. My team and I stand ready to assist you in this collective quest as you make progress in all of these areas.

The document also underscores that the preparation of the post 2015 development agenda will benefit from the three (3) High level Events and the three (3) thematic debates I will be convening during the second part of the 68th session. My team and I will endeavor to make these complimentary and mutually reinforcing, so as to enable you to make further progress on each and every one of the priority areas I have identified, all of which are reflected in the outcome document.

Excellencies,

While there is much to be done, we can now say that we have begun the intergovernmental process aimed at putting in place a post 2015 development agenda, which will require sustained and committed work from each and every one of you. This is indeed an exciting time for our United Nations. I welcome the adoption of this resolution and I look forward to setting the stage for the post 2015 development agenda together with all of you.

Thank you.