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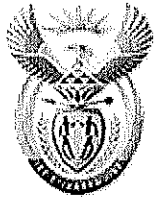
Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit to you a letter from the co-facilitators, H.E. Ms. Anne Anderson, Permanent Representative of Ireland and H.E. Mr. Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa, convening open consultations on 24 June from 3-6 pm on the draft outcome document for the Special Event for MDGs on 25 September 2013. Also please find attached some first elements regarding the content of this document.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Ambassador Dejan Sahovic  
Deputy Chef de Cabinet

To All Permanent Representatives  
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



17 June 2013

Excellency,

**Special Event towards achieving the MDGs**

Following the positive exchange of views with member states on the outcome document at open consultations on 6 June, we have pleasure in sharing for your consideration the attached draft elements for the outcome to the Special Event.

We have reflected carefully on the interventions made at the meeting on 6 June. We noted the strong calls for the primary focus of the Event and its outcome to be on MDG progress and acceleration. There were calls for an outcome which is concise, clearly written and gives a sense of political renewal as we rededicate ourselves to achieving the MDGs. We also noted support for the Event to elaborate a roadmap to 2015. Additionally, many delegations suggested that the Event and its outcome could reflect in a preliminary way on the overall post-2015 agenda. Drawing on these and other views expressed at that meeting, as well benefiting from inputs from the UN Secretariat, we have prepared the attached draft elements for the outcome document for your consideration.

With regard to MDG implementation and acceleration (and consistent with the agreed objective of a very concise text) we would be interested to know of other specific concrete deliverables that you feel might also be included.

We look forward to your feedback on the section Post-2015/Roadmap. In the concluding paragraph, we have left open the date in 2015 at which a Summit might be held to adopt the new Goals. There are two options: a stand-alone Summit in the first half of the year (which arguably would focus more attention and facilitate seamless transition) or a Summit which would form part of the High Level Segment at the 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (when a significant number of Heads of State and Government would be in New York in any event). It will be important to have your guidance on this point.

We invite you to share your reaction to the attached at open consultations which will take place in Conference Room 3 (NLB) on Monday, 24 June, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please confirm meeting details in the UN Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



H.E. Kingsley Mamabolo  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of South Africa



H.E. Anne Anderson  
Permanent Representative  
of Ireland

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

## **Elements for draft outcome document for Special Event**

Less than 850 days remain for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. None of that precious time must be wasted; every day matters.

We gather today with a sense of urgency and determination. Our purpose is to renew our individual and collective commitment to intensifying efforts to achieve the Goals.

We acknowledge and celebrate what has been achieved so far. The Millennium Development Goals have provided a common vision and contributed to remarkable progress. The years since the Millennium Declaration have seen the fastest poverty reduction in human history.

But satisfaction at success is tempered by deep concern at unevenness and gaps in achievement. In this final, urgent effort our strongest concern must be for those who have been left furthest behind. The least developed countries and conflict-affected countries require our particular support and solidarity as they strive towards meeting the Goals.

### **Focus on Individual Goals**

Across the individual Goals, more can be done. We commit to the following:

- **Poverty.** We will strengthen our support for the Zero Hunger Initiative of the Secretary General and the L'Aquila Pledge made in context of the G8. Our particular focus will be on improving the resilience of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities.
- **Education.** We will redouble our efforts to remove financial barriers to education, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable children, including children affected by conflict.
- **Gender equality.** We will act as champions of gender equality, resolute in our determination to address the range of barriers that entrench gender-based inequality.
- **Child survival.** We commit to accelerate child survival by scaling up proven nutrition and health interventions and investing in sectors that impact on child survival, such as water and sanitation and girl's education.
- **Maternal mortality.** We will put a greater focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and addressing health services challenges such as the availability of ante-natal and obstetric care services, in particular in remote areas.
- **Combating disease.** We resolve to increase access to anti-retroviral therapy with the aim of reaching universal access by 2015. We will ensure an adequate replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and ensure that international funding for malaria control is matched by adequate domestic funding in endemic countries.

- **Environmental sustainability.** We reaffirm our commitment to the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”. We resolve to close the sanitation gap, including through “Sustainable sanitation: the five year drive to 2015”. We will spare no effort to achieve a reversal of the current trend of a growing global number of slum dwellers.

### **Partnership**

Global partnership is critical to accelerating MDG implementation. All the actors – governments, local authorities, parliaments, international organisations, business, civil society, private philanthropic foundations - must leverage their respective strengths. In accelerating implementation, full use must also be made of regional and sub-regional frameworks, such as NEPAD.

We are conscious of the intensive efforts being made in many countries to overcome bottlenecks in programming, investment and service deliveries. We will take additional concrete steps to speed up these efforts, including through the MDG Acceleration Framework.

We emphasise that ODA continues to play an essential role, complementing other sources of financing for development. We urgently call on countries to meet their commitments towards achieving the target of 0.7% of GNI as ODA. We stress the importance of democratic governance, transparency and accountability.

An enabling international economic environment is essential for the achievement of the MDGs: we call for renewed efforts towards completion of the Doha round during the upcoming Ministerial meeting to be held in Bali.

We underline the need for the business sector to engage in responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the United Nations Global Compact.

### **Post-2015**

Completing the unfinished business of the MDGs will remain a central task of the post-2015 agenda, with poverty eradication remaining the overarching goal.

The new agenda must go beyond the MDGs, putting a greater focus on the poorest and most excluded people and addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

A consensus is emerging on the desirability of designing a single set of Goals, universal in nature, aimed at achieving poverty eradication within the context of sustainable development. This will require an integrated approach, simultaneously advancing social, economic and environmental objectives.

Today, we call for a global post-2015 agenda which has sustainable development at its core and which will merge the environmental and developmental strands.

## Roadmap

We lay out the roadmap which will take us to the point of adoption of a new framework and set of Goals in 2015.

The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the new Goals must be seamless. We are determined to maintain the MDG momentum: in parallel with the preparatory work at multilateral level, we stand ready to initiate the detailed work at national level which will be required to underpin the new Goals.

A sense of national ownership of the new Goals is a prerequisite for their success. In order to establish that sense of ownership, the process leading to adoption of the Goals must be an inter-governmental one. And, if the Goals are truly to be people-centred, the preparatory work must be enriched by the contributions of all our citizens.

The first steps of the roadmap are already in place. The Secretary General's Report encapsulates inputs from the High Level Panel of eminent persons, the United Nations Development Group consultations, the United Nations Global Compact, and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has been mandated to submit its report by September 2014. In the interest of coherence, the Group of Experts on Financing and Development should submit its report at the same time.

With reports from both Groups, as well as a range of other inputs, available in September 2014, the way will be clear for the final phase of inter-governmental work to prepare for adoption of the new framework and set of Goals.

So as to enable the membership as a whole to maintain an overview of developments in the various processes, it will be important to have a rendezvous point between now and September 2014. A comprehensive stock-taking debate in the General Assembly in Spring 2014 would provide such an opportunity.

We count on the support of the UN system throughout all our work. As an input to the final phase of inter-governmental preparatory work, we look to the Secretary General to synthesise the output of the various processes; we request such a synthesis report by the end of 2014.

The final phase of inter-governmental work that will be initiated in September 2014 will culminate in a Summit in ... 2015.