

28 August 2013

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić,
President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable
Development Financing**

Delivered on behalf of the President of the General Assembly by the Acting President, H.E. Mr. Enrique Román-Morey

Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I address you as Acting President of the General Assembly on behalf President Jeremic who regrets that he is unable to participate in this meeting with you today due to an official trip.

This is the very first session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to be held here at the United Nations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Mrs Byrganym Aitimova, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, and to H.E. Mr. Geir Pedersen, the Permanent Representative of Norway, for their diligent and intensive work during the consultations leading up to the adoption of the General Assembly decision 67/559 establishing the committee.

It has been my task to oversee the agenda for this initial three-day session. I am gratified that we have been able to fulfil the August deadline for this meeting. There is a great deal of ground to cover and I am sure you will apply yourselves with urgency and industry to the discussions which lie ahead.

I will shortly hand over the stewardship of the committee to the two co-chairs who you are about to elect. The weight of the international community's expectation and hopes falls on your collective shoulders as you embark on these substantive deliberations. Member States have given you this conspicuous responsibility and I am certain that you will rise to the challenge.

Distinguished Representatives,

In Rio de Janeiro, in June last year, world leaders endorsed the historic "The Future We Want" document, which established the framing principles of the post-2015 agenda. Member States agreed on measures to comprehensively integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development—namely economic, social, and environmental—into a single, fully coherent whole.

They mandated the General Assembly to conceive and adopt the sustainable development goals, design options for financing them, and create a workable intergovernmental arrangement for monitoring their implementation—in essence, assigning this body with the strategic aim of crafting a new, ambitious global framework that will define much of the UN’s work the first half of the 21st century.

The last months have seen substantial progress in our collective thinking as we work together to build the post-2015 agenda. We now need to define how the international community will organize itself to support the goals and the shared agenda that they represent.

Six months ago, the Open Working Group on the SDGs began consultations on the definition of the SDGs. The discussions that have taken place so far within that group have made clear that the means of implementation is a critical dimension that will need to be addressed.

Distinguished Representatives,

A key responsibility of this intergovernmental committee of experts is to develop an understanding of and then suggest improvements to the currently fragmented development financing landscape. We must seek a solution to the current state of affairs in which different funding processes have led to a disjointed and piecemeal funding environment.

The aim is to ensure greater coherence, increased efficiency and a more productive use of funds. This is a daunting task, but one which needs to be tackled head-on and in a prompt fashion if we are to succeed in the coming years in narrowing the gap between the world’s have-s and the have not-s.

The committee is expected to issue its final report one year from now. Member States and the broader international community will look to this intergovernmental committee to develop balanced options which can be realistically and pro-actively implemented.

Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your endeavor will not be easy. Financing has been and remains an often intractable political issue in the multilateral context. But expectations are high. In my opinion, progress on resource mobilization and other issues included in the mandate of the committee would further progress in all the other areas that we have been discussing since last June.

An ambitious sustainable development financing strategy that reflects our common objectives while accommodating our diverse circumstances is not only desirable, it is essential. We must seize this historical moment with passion and commitment so that, in years to come, the colleagues who follow in our footsteps at the United Nations, can proudly say that it all started here and on this day.

The expertise that has been assembled by Member States in this committee gives me hope that you can provide us with constructive options that go beyond entrenched national positions and established prerogatives and that will enable all of us to achieve progress towards shared prosperity for all.

Forging this brighter future, as envisioned in “The World We Want” outcome document of the Rio+20 summit, would further reinforce the General Assembly’s status as what the Charter terms a “center for harmonizing the actions of nations,” and thus advance the efforts of generations to come to entrench sustainable peace, security and well-being across the globe.

I thank you for your attention.