



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 May 2015

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 24 April 2015 on the convening of informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector on the post-2015 development agenda, scheduled for 26-27 May 2015, I am pleased to forward to you the Concept Note and provisional programme.

As indicated earlier, the two day hearings will consist of an opening segment, four interactive roundtables and a closing segment. A President's summary of the hearings will be prepared and circulated to Member States and stakeholders. A more detailed programme will be availed in due course.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', written over a large, stylized 'X' mark.

Sam K. Kutesa

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

**Concept Note**  
**Informal interactive hearings on the post-2015 development agenda**  
**26-27 May 2015**  
**Trusteeship Council Chamber**

**Background**

Engagement with multi-sector and multi-stakeholder actors in the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations has increased steadily. Outcomes from the UN Millennium Summit and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) further underscored the need for governments to address development challenges in a more holistic, inclusive, transparent and accountable manner with new levels of cooperation. Such engagement is of critical importance at a time when the post-2015 development agenda, with eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, is being formulated by Member States and stakeholders.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/244, the President of the General Assembly will organize, in conjunction with the co-facilitators for the post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations, two days of informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups, and the private sector.

The interactive hearings are aimed at fostering active participation and ensuring regional and gender balance, diversity of expertise, sectors and age among speakers to contribute to the formulation of the new development agenda.

**Objective**

The interactive hearings will provide an opportunity for representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups, and the private sector to exchange views and make proposals on the post-2015 development agenda at a critical stage of the intergovernmental negotiations. It is expected that the zero draft of the summit outcome document will be issued by the end of May 2015.

**Format and outcome**

The interactive hearings will comprise an opening segment, four interactive roundtables and a closing segment. The outcome will be a President's Summary to be circulated to Member States and stakeholders. It will be made available prior to the Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, scheduled for September 25-27, 2015 in New York.

## **Roundtable Discussion 1: The Declaration**

The Declaration of the post-2015 development agenda offers a unique opportunity to present an ambitious vision for sustainable development. This roundtable discussion will address how the Declaration of the outcome document can in a clear and visionary way articulate the objectives and priorities of the new agenda and its implementation.

### **Guiding questions**

1. How should a visionary and ambitious sustainable development agenda, in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, be framed in the Declaration so it can be understood and embraced by all people?
2. How would you suggest inspiring all governments and all stakeholders to take action towards implementing the fundamental transformations envisioned in the post-2015 development agenda?
3. How can the Sustainable Development Goals and targets be featured in the Declaration to maximize ownership and communication?

## **Roundtable 2: Sustainable Goals, Targets, and Indicators**

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed upon an ambitious set of 17 goals and 169 targets. To be effective, the SDG framework must inspire countries and communities to act to implement transformative change; build upon best practices; and encourage innovation to address gaps and new and emerging challenges. The Secretary-General in his Synthesis Report proposes 6 essential elements, namely dignity; people; prosperity; planet; justice; and partnership, to help frame and communicate the SDGs. There is need for development of both qualitative and quantitative indicators for all of the SDG targets, which are evidence-based and measurable. The UN Statistical Commission is currently working on proposed indicators for consideration.

This roundtable will exchange views on the goals, targets and indicators, and also consider the need for investment in capacity-building; data collection, statistical analysis; and overall implementation. Strategies to achieve disaggregation of data on the basis of sex, age, ethnic background, race, geographic location, income, and disability, among other variables, will be discussed.

### **Guiding questions**

1. How can the indicators be developed in a way that will facilitate monitoring of implementation at national level, ensuring that no one is left behind and that no goal or target is considered achieved unless it has

been met for everyone? What strategies can be developed to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are reached?

2. How can the global indicator framework drive ambitious programs, while drawing on lessons learned from the MDGs, evidence-based analysis of what is most effective, and connecting to appropriate regional, national, local and thematic indicators to ensure monitoring and accountability at all levels?
3. How can data collection, use, analysis and sharing be strengthened in the public and private sectors to ensure transparent and effective collaboration between stakeholders at all levels?

### **Roundtable 3: Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

To implement the post-2015 development agenda, strong political will and leadership is needed at all levels. The means of implementation that will be required – finances, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building – will be substantial in developing and developed countries, covering the social, economic and environmental dimensions. To mobilize the scale of resources needed, a renewed global partnership will be critical. Key issues to be discussed include: mobilisation of the resources needed and their effective use; policy coherence; identifying and further improving existing best practices; strengthening capacities and enabling environments; facilitation of technology transfer; definition of principles for multi-stakeholder partnerships; and how to address challenges and gaps in implementation.

Many States and stakeholders have specified that implementation strategies must be inclusive. It will be important to ensure meaningful participation of populations that have been marginalized and/or are vulnerable in the design of these strategies, and to ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Transparent, evidence-based decision-making processes, and clear roles and responsibilities will be essential to achieve the post-2015 agenda's objectives.

#### **Guiding Questions**

1. How can increased financial resources both public and private, domestic and external be mobilized and complement each other for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, taking into account the scale and diversity of challenges, and the options for new, additional, and innovative financing mechanisms?

2. What mechanisms can ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of stakeholders, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships, for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda?
3. What structural reforms, capacity-building efforts, and technology facilitation mechanisms need to be implemented for the achievement of post-2015 development agenda, and the sustainable development goals in particular?
4. How can the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development support implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda and how can coherence between the two processes be achieved?

#### **Roundtable Discussion 4: Follow up and Review**

To support achievement of the aspirations of the post-2015 development agenda, an effective mechanism is needed for follow up and review of implementation at all levels, by Member States and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society. Best practices in existing mechanisms for monitoring and review can be affirmed and built upon. Further, the review process could facilitate responses to new and emerging challenges in implementation, such as rising inequalities, insecurity, climate change, disasters, and resource constraints. Public participation in follow up and review mechanisms has been recognized as vital at all levels, including through the continued engagement of major groups and all other stakeholders.

#### **Guiding Questions**

1. How can awareness and understanding about the post-2015 development agenda be built to support a more effective follow up and review of the agenda?
2. What mechanisms and institutional arrangements are needed to ensure accountability for inclusive, rights-based and timely implementation of the full agenda at the local, national, regional and global levels with involvement of all?
3. How can the UN High-Level Political Forum and other UN processes and entities effectively track progress on implementation of the agenda?

## **Provisional Programme**

### **DAY 1**

#### **10:00-11:00am - High-level Opening Ceremony**

Statements by: President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, Co-Facilitators, representatives of civil society organizations, major groups, and the private sector.

#### **11:00am-1:00pm - Roundtable Discussion 1**

Theme: *Declaration*

Moderator, with 2 panellists, including Member State respondents. There will be 2 designated Member State respondents (5 min) and 2 designated civil society/private sector respondents (3 min)

#### **3:00pm-6:00pm - Roundtable Discussion 2**

Theme: *Goals, Targets and Indicators*

Moderator, with 4 panellists. There will be 2 designated Member State respondents (5 min) and 2 designated civil society/private sector respondents (3 min)

### **DAY 2**

#### **10:00am-1:00pm - Roundtable Discussion 3**

Theme: *MOI and a new global partnership*

Moderator, with 4 panellists. There will be 2 designated Member State respondents (5 min) and 2 designated civil society/private sector respondents (3 min)

#### **3:00pm-5:30pm - Roundtable Discussion 4**

Theme: *Monitoring, review and follow-up*

Moderator, with 2 panellists, including one Member State. There will be 2 designated Member State respondents (5 min) and 2 designated civil society/private sector respondents (3 min)

#### **5:30pm-6:00pm - High-level Closing Ceremony**

Remarks by: President of the General Assembly, Co-Facilitators, and representatives of civil society/major groups/private sector.

**Informal interactive hearings with representatives of Non-governmental Organizations, Civil Society, Major Groups and the Private Sector on the Post-2015 development agenda**

**General Assembly Hall, United Nations, New York  
26-27 May 2015**

**Programme**

<p><b>Day One:</b></p> <p><b>Morning Session</b> 10:00– 11:00am</p>	<p><b>Opening Segment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Denis G. Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada</li> <li>• Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning</li> <li>• H.E Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda</li> </ul> <p>Speakers (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tawanda Mutasah, Senior Director of Law &amp; Policy, Amnesty International</li> <li>• Mr. Rajiv Joshi, Managing Director, The B Team</li> <li>• Ms. Heather Grady, Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors</li> <li>• Ms. Maryanne Diamond, International Disability Alliance</li> <li>• Mr. Steve Lalande, International Forum of NGO Platforms</li> <li>• Ms. Shantal Munro-Knight, Caribbean Policy Development Centre</li> </ul>
<p>11:00am– 1:00pm</p>	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 1:</b></p> <p><i>Theme: Declaration</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p> <p>Panellists (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Jeremiah Daffa, World Wildlife Fund</li> <li>• Ms. Mrinalini Rai, Global Forest Coalition</li> <li>• Mr. Patricio Guillermo Roulier Pazos, Climate Community</li> <li>• Ms. Gulalai Ismail, Aware Girls</li> </ul> <p>Member State respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Jean-Francis R. Zinsou, Permanent Representative of Benin to the UN</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Jeffrey Salim Waheed, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic Maldives to the UN</li> <li>• Mr. Amit Narang, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the UN</li> <li>• Mr. Javad Momeni, Second Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Lombe Tembo, Restless Development</li> <li>• Mr. Igor Runov, International Road Transport Union</li> </ul> <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
<p><b>Afternoon Session</b></p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 2:</b></p> <p><i>Theme: Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Magdy Martínez-Solimán, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of the United Nations Development Program</p> <p>Panellists (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Agnes Leina Ntikaampi, Illaramatak Community Concerns</li> <li>• Ms. Nathalie Seguin, Red de Acción por el Agua (Freshwater Action Network)</li> <li>• Ms. Rewan Youssif, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations and the Global Youth Coalition on HIV / AIDS</li> <li>• Ms. Vibhuti Joshi, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)</li> </ul> <p>Member State respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Zsolt Hetesy, Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Tim Mawe, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sylvia Beales, HelpAge International</li> <li>• Mr. Javier Pineda, LAC Youth Alliance</li> <li>• Ms. Sandra Mullin, World Lung Foundation and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Alliance</li> </ul> <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
<p><b>Day Two: Morning</b></p>	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 3:</b></p> <p><i>Theme: Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</i></p>



<p><b>Session</b></p> <p>10:00am – 1:00pm</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Director, Financing for Development Office, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (TBC)</p> <p>Panellists (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Anastasia L. Thatcher, Accenture Development Partnerships</li> <li>• Dr. Fumiko Kasuga, International Council for Science</li> <li>• Mr. Miguel Santibáñez, Asociación chilena de ONG ACCION / Mesa de Articulación, Beyond 2015</li> <li>• Mr. Carl Wright, Commonwealth Local Governments Forum (CLGF)</li> </ul> <p>Member State respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Daisy Owomugasho, The Hunger Project</li> <li>• Mr. Sugeng Bahagijo, International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)</li> <li>• Dr. Mercy Ahun, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance</li> <li>• Mr. Edwin Gragert, Global Campaign for Education</li> <li>• Mr. Amir Dossal, Global Partnerships Forum</li> </ul> <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
<p><b>Afternoon Session</b></p> <p>3:00 – 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion 4:</b></p> <p><i>Theme: Monitoring, review and follow-up</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women</p> <p>Panellists (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nana Koomah Brown-Orleans, Trades Union Congress</li> <li>• Ms. Luisa Emilia Reyes Zúñiga, Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia</li> <li>• Ms. Andrea Maria Patricia Sarenas, Caucus of Development NGO Networks</li> </ul> <p>Member State respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Permanent Representative of</li> </ul>

	<p>Romania to the UN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Dmitry I. Maksimychev, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN</li> <li>• Mr. Gabriel Rivera Conde y Castañeda, Head of Strategic Projects Unit of the Office of the President, Mexico</li> <li>• Ms. Puneet Ahira, Special Advisor to the Chief Technology Officer, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, United States</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder respondents (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nicole Cardinal, Save the Children International</li> <li>• Mr. John Romano, Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network</li> <li>• Ms. Maria Victoire, ATD Fourth World</li> <li>• Ms. Robynne Anderson, International AgriFood Network</li> </ul> <p>Interactive Q and A</p>
<p><b>Closing Segment</b></p> <p>5:30 – 6:00pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda</li> <li>• Acting President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Denis G. Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada</li> </ul>



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 June 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/244, a Summary of the key messages and proposals from the Informal interactive hearings with Non-governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Major Groups and the Private Sector on the post-2015 development agenda, which I convened on 26-27 May 2015.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', written in a cursive style.

Sam K. Kutesa

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

# **Informal interactive hearings with representatives of Non-governmental organizations, Civil society, Major groups and the Private sector on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
26-27 May 2015**

## **President's Summary**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/244, the President of the General Assembly convened informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society, major groups, and the private sector on 26-27 May 2015. The hearings comprised an opening segment, four interactive roundtables, and a closing segment. The interactive roundtable discussions included panelists and respondents from Member State and stakeholders. The following is a summary of the key messages and proposals from the hearings.

## **Opening Segment**

Speakers underscored the need to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda being formulated reflects a people-centred approach with the eradication of poverty, improving livelihoods for all and the achievement of sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions as its core objectives. It was stressed that securing the necessary resources - finances, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building will be critical for effective implementation. Robust, inclusive, participatory and effective follow-up and review mechanisms that engage various stakeholders at all levels will also be essential to track progress.

It was noted that a close relationship exists between development and human rights challenges. Some speakers called for a rights-based approach to sustainable development in order to break silos in policy-making. As an integrated framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will also be critical for addressing inequalities and for promoting peaceful and stable societies, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Civil society, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders should make their contributions and input for decision-making to urgently address sustainable development challenges. Governments were encouraged to commit to time-bound implementation of the new development agenda and to tackle inequalities, including through the collection of disaggregated data.

It was stressed that enhancing accountability at the national level by ensuring inclusive assessment of progress, reviewing progress beyond national borders and learning from policies that will be successful for implementation of the SDGs in other countries and following-up at the regional and global levels under the guidance of the UN will also be critical.

Speakers noted that other priorities should include advancing gender equality and empowerment of women, ending violence against women in all its forms, designing integrated sustainable development policies and mechanisms, collecting data, developing statistical capacity, and ensuring appropriate social protection floors. It was further stressed that the vulnerable such as children and youth, indigenous peoples, migrants, older persons and persons with disabilities are not left behind by the new agenda. Coherence should be ensured between the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and follow-up to the outcomes of other international conferences such as the Third Conference on Financing for Development, Least Developed Countries (LDCS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), among others.

The private sector also has a crucial role to play in achieving the SDGs, through its contribution to economic growth and providing decent jobs that will lift people out of poverty. Governments should create an enabling environment for businesses by setting priorities in-line with the SDGs and fostering partnerships, while businesses should be more accountable and enhance their reporting.

It was noted that new approaches to philanthropy are also needed to harness synergies and resources for implementation of the new agenda, and examples of successful initiative in the sectors of health, education and agriculture were cited. The UN and governments were encouraged to partner with philanthropy in order to improve accountability.

### **Roundtable discussion 1: Theme: Declaration**

1. Panelists underscored that the Summit declaration should be short and visionary; inspire political leadership; reaffirm the Rio+20 principles; and underscore poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development as the overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. It should also highlight interlinkages among all dimensions of sustainable development. It should be a means to communicate the agenda to all audiences, help build ownership and stress the need for concerted efforts to meet challenges. In this way, the declaration can set the stage for a universal, holistic and transformative approach.

2. Member State respondents emphasized that the declaration should articulate the commitment to leave no one behind, improving livelihoods for all people, and emphasize universal human rights, rule of law, good governance, social equality, inclusiveness at all levels. It should stress the importance of enduring partnership between governments and stakeholders, environmental protection and preserving the Planet. The declaration should include a strong and forward-looking statement on the need to achieve gender equality and to empower women, supporting children and the youth, among other key priorities.

3. The declaration should reinforce the commitment to delivering economic and social benefits in order to create a world without poverty, in harmony with nature, with sustainable consumption and production patterns, a world based on equity, shared responsibility and prosperity.

4. Stakeholder respondents added that the declaration should address the role of effective, responsive and transparent institutions in fostering the kind of coherent policies that are necessary for inclusive growth and job creation and, and highlight the constructive role partnerships can play.

5. The declaration should highlight the universal nature of the agenda, take note of the different levels of development and recognize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).

### **Roundtable Discussion 2: Theme: Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators**

1. It was stressed that the SDGs should build on the foundation laid by Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ensure no regression, and emphasize the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. They should be strongly underpinned by existing universal human rights, and represent a new social contract with governments collaborating with civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

2. There should be greater efforts to realize the right to water and sanitation, health and well-being, among others, and Member States should align national indicators with global norms, standards and aspirations, and adapt global indicators to national development plans and strategies.

3. It was noted that development of a good indicators framework will be essential for keeping the ambition high and tracking progress during implementation of the SDGs. Broad citizen participation would ensure that the presence of disaggregated data would account for the vulnerable and marginalized.

4. National indicators should reflect countries' respective national capacities. National focal points and implementation committees should oversee implementation of the SDGs, and national processes should identify indicators that will stimulate inclusive growth and job creation. Civil society, partnerships at the grassroots, and stakeholders in every country should participate in the process on developing indicators. The next step toward implementation should be both a technical process to develop indicators involving statisticians, and a political process generating a new global partnership.

5. Stakeholder respondents added that disaggregated data by sex and age, disability, among other variables, should inform policy making. The UN system should incorporate ageing in their work and publish their findings for governments.

6. The importance of ensuring that adequate means of implementation for the new agenda are embedded in the outcome of the September 2015 summit was underscored. The notion of mutual accountability between governments and stakeholders was highlighted in the context of mobilizing means of implementation.

7. There should be emphasis on citizen ownership, including localization of the agenda, but governments will need to continue playing a role in disseminating information; ensuring crucial political buy-in; scaling up good examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration; and supporting the development of statistical capacity.

### **Roundtable discussion 3: Theme: Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

1. Panelists underlined the importance of ensuring that the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) are complementary and coherent. It will be crucial to identify how increased financial resources from all sources can complement each other to address the new agenda, what structural reforms and capacities will be needed, and what mechanisms will ensure civil society and multi stakeholder participation. Some said that the outcome should also provide a platform for sharing experiences and seeking alternative funding streams. It should address capacity building, women's empowerment, youth inclusion, political rights, and partnerships driving innovation. The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is a good starting point for creating participatory space for review and follow-up of implementation.

2. Tax reform and increased domestic resource mobilization can boost capacities of governments to deliver basic social services and help reduce inequality. Greater efforts are required to combat corruption, improve transparency and free up resources for development.

Panelists underscored that the FfD process and the UN system in general should support countries' efforts to combat tax evasion and illicit financial flows, going beyond the action plan proposed by the OECD. Panelists proposed strengthening of the existing UN Committee on tax matters, or the establishment of a new intergovernmental committee.

3. The scientific community can also play a role in the implementation of the SDGs, as a neutral, objective and universal stakeholder. It should provide a solid foundation for policy making, promote accountability and transparency, show the impact of unsustainable patterns, and identify ways to improve the environment and quality of life. The scientific and technological community should work in an integrated and trans-disciplinary manner with global partners to identify critical issues and support decision making with solutions based on sound evidence. Governments should help scale up science activities, capacity building and innovation, especially in low-resource environments, and encourage stronger collaboration with the scientific and technological community.

4. Member State respondents noted that the private sector was vast and differentiated in size, scope and actions, and that successful businesses should promote social inclusion and achievement of the SDGs. Many CEOs noted that business should have a leading role in achieving sustainable development, but acknowledged that current efforts were not enough. Business should contribute resources and know-how. Engagement should not be limited to corporate social responsibility, but should extend to the sustainable growth, elimination of harmful practices, decent job creation, and technology transfer, among other areas.

5. A renewed Global Partnership for development is essential for mobilization of means of implementation from all sources as well as unlocking the resources and capacity of the private sector for sustainable development.

6. It was noted that international public finance, especially ODA, will be critical for developing countries, particularly the LDCs. It was further noted that challenges in financing the SDGs would have to be addressed, and that fulfilling ODA commitments would be critical to support LDCs. The private sector has financial resources much greater than traditional ODA and philanthropy. Both governments and stakeholders must think of ways to use resources from across sectors, including those held by insurance companies, banks, capital markets, wealth funds and other institutional investors. The transfer of technology is fundamentally linked to capacity building; however discussions should not be derailed by the issue of intellectual property rights.

7. It was noted that enhancing governments' partnerships with civil society and other relevant stakeholders would also be key to promoting rule of law, and fostering peaceful, stable and equitable societies.



Public participation can contribute to effectiveness of both review mechanisms at all levels and to the application of cross-cutting plans and strategies.

8. Stakeholder respondents highlighted the importance of localizing the SDGs, taking a bottom-up approach and having accountable governance at all levels. Strengthened local governments can raise revenue for sustainable development, invest in infrastructure, and build capacity for implementation. The role of media and academia will also be crucial in capacity building and raising awareness.

9. Some speakers said that implementation should be based on three pillars: empowering women, mobilizing everyone, and strengthening local democracy through the establishment of community-led accountability mechanisms. It was noted that fiscal decentralization is key in promoting partnerships with the private sector and strengthening local governance.

10. Ensuring that multi-national corporations pay their taxes, combating tax evasion, and illicit financial flows should be given priority. The strengthening of public-private partnerships and leveraging of blended finance mechanisms can generate additional resources for sustainable development, but the risks should be analyzed and addressed.

11. Promoting financial inclusion, financial literacy and involvement of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be crucial in efforts towards achieving the SDGs. There should also be greater focus on non-financial means, such as enabling policies, especially at the early phases of implementation.

#### **Roundtable discussion 4: Theme: Monitoring, review and follow-up**

1. Panelists noted that robust and effective monitoring, review and follow-up mechanisms are critical for the successful implementation of the new development agenda. The follow-up and review framework should be voluntary, state-led, flexible, transparent, and should build on existing mechanisms as much as possible, engage all stakeholders, and operate vertically as well as horizontally.

2. It was proposed that stakeholders could perform their own progress assessments at regional and global levels. Such diverse participation would help generate awareness and communicate the SDGs to the public. It was also recognized that data collection and analysis will pose a significant challenge for monitoring the post-2015 agenda.

3. Member State respondents underscored that a strengthened independent statistical capacity would also be crucial, as it would help civil society stakeholders to hold governments accountable. Data systems will not be useful, however, if not presented in a valid and simple way.

It was noted that building coherent systems relies on accessible and understandable data, and partnerships with the government will ensure access at various levels. Open-source technology will help focus on engaging people.

4. Member State respondents said that the follow-up and review process should account for the diversity of national approaches. The definition of accountability, it was noted, varied among actors. Some speakers said that it was important to allow governments to decide what to share with the international community. There cannot be a prescriptive one-size-fits-all solution.

5. Systematic interaction between governments and stakeholders at the national level, with the participation of local communities was emphasized. Effective social dialogue can stimulate inclusive growth and strengthen accountability and ownership. Some speakers noted that the post-2015 agenda should ultimately help make more effective use of development cooperation at all levels, and involve parliaments and national assemblies in a proactive follow-up.

6. Stakeholder respondents added that an inclusive and participatory follow-up and review process would demonstrate that the international community had learned from the experience of the MDGs. Furthermore, to meet the ambitions of the new agenda, it would be essential to demonstrate that the SDGs are in line with international human rights norms and labour standards.

7. The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development was widely recognized as the main platform for follow-up and review at the global level. Other international development institutions will focus on specific goals and targets at the global level. Stakeholder engagement will be important, and all actors must be accountable for their contributions. Regional reviews should be under the purview of UN Regional Commissions and prioritize regional solutions. It will be vital to develop mechanisms to track national progress in achieving the SDGs. National reports should be supplemented by stakeholder reports, independent reports by the UN system, and analysis by multi-stakeholder partners and the private sector.

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26 May 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Opening of the Informal Interactive Hearings on Post-2015  
Development Agenda**

*Delivered by H.E. Denis G. Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada on behalf of President Kutesa*

**Excellencies,  
Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Post-2015  
Development Planning,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Esteemed panellists,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you to the Informal Interactive Hearings on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to deliver this statement on behalf of His Excellency, Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly.

I also welcome our panellists, many of whom travelled long distances, to join us for these hearings.

The negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda underway have reached a crucial stage. Together, Member States and stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, civil society, major groups and the private sector, are formulating an ambitious and transformative post-2005 development agenda. And good progress is being made as reflected in the ambition, breadth and scope of the proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be the main component of the new development agenda.

It is now clear that the resources that we have to mobilize for implementing the new agenda in terms of finances, technology development and transfer, as well as capacity building are substantial.

We have to ensure that the new development agenda supports the efforts of all countries to eradicate poverty, transform economies, improve livelihoods of people everywhere and protect our planet.

These interactive hearings are being held at an opportune time, with the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda expected to be issued early next month. The hearings are intended to foster active participation and contribution by important stakeholders in this important process.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

The roundtables will focus on four themes which correspond to the components of the new agenda being formulated, namely the Declaration; sustainable development goals, targets and indicators; means of implementation and a global partnership for sustainable development; and follow-up and review.

As I have stressed before, the ultimate test of the new development agenda will depend on its successful implementation. To do so, we should ensure mobilization of adequate resources and their effective use. In this regard, ensuring a successful outcome from the upcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development, that will take place in Addis Ababa this July, is critical.

We also need a robust and effective follow-up and review framework to track progress and address challenges that will be faced in the implementation of the new agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The process of formulating the proposed SDGs was unprecedented in its inclusive engagement of stakeholders. We look forward to hearing views and proposals of the representatives of NGOs, CSOs, major groups and the private sector on the post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.

27 may 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Closing of the Informal Interactive Hearings on the Post-2015  
Development Agenda**

*Delivered by H.E. Denis G. Antoine, Permanent Representative of Grenada on behalf of President Kutesa*

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly, I thank all of you for your valuable contributions throughout these Informal Interactive Hearings on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Throughout these hearings, we heard resounding calls for an ambitious, transformative and inclusive post-2015 development agenda. Many speakers noted that all stakeholders will have instrumental roles to play if we are to achieve our sustainable development objectives.

Civil society should serve as important linkages between governments and local communities, while also enhancing accountability and fostering greater participation at all levels.

Businesses should make an important contribution towards promoting sustainable growth and creating jobs to lift people out of poverty, while new approaches to philanthropy will harness synergies across all stakeholder groups.

Participants highlighted the need to ensure that the new agenda fosters shared prosperity where no one is left behind, including youth, women, those with disabilities or otherwise marginalized groups. Many speakers emphasized the need for the new agenda to be holistic and to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Many speakers stressed that the Declaration for the new agenda should be short and visionary; highlighting the complementarity between poverty eradication and sustainable development. Others proposed that it should be based on the principles of universal human rights, rule of law, good governance and social equality.

We heard proposals that an indicators framework and disaggregated data that accounts for the vulnerable and marginalized will help in monitoring progress on achievement of goals and targets and ensuring that gaps are addressed.

On follow-up and review, the need for an effective framework at national, regional and international levels was underscored for ownership and mutual accountability.

On means of implementation, speakers stressed the need to mobilise resources from all sources; domestic and external, public and private. They also emphasized the importance a renewed global partnership for development, fulfilment of traditional official development assistance (ODA) commitments, greater private sector engagement, multi-stakeholder participation, private philanthropy, and innovative mechanisms for financing. The need to foster greater accountability in the management of resources, combating corruption, illicit financial flows and strengthening cooperation in tax matters was also stressed.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Over the last two days we heard views and proposals from non-governmental organizations, civil society, major groups, the private sector, and Member States on the main components of the new development agenda.

A summary of the key messages and proposals that have emerged from these interactive hearings will be prepared and circulated to Member States and stakeholders in the coming days.

Once again, I thank you all for your valuable contributions and active participation.