

26 May 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th 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.