



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 December 2015

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 4 November, 2015, regarding the three High-level Thematic Debates that I will convene, I am pleased to invite your Government to participate, at the highest level possible, in the first of these events entitled, **High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**, which will take place 11-12 April, 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This HLTD will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders to focus their efforts on ramping up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As you are aware, a major priority of my presidency is to support prompt and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, it is critical that we maintain and increase the political momentum garnered from the successful Sustainable Development Summit that took place here in New York this past September and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which was held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. In like manner, I also intend to build on the outcome of the UNFCCC COP21 meeting in Paris, upon its completion in a few days' time.

A short Concept Note is attached and additional information will be provided in the weeks ahead.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

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

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action  
**High Level Thematic Debate on  
Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals  
New York, 11-12 April, 2016**

**Desired Outcomes:**

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate action at all levels on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Strengthen action by governments on implementation and unlock private investment to finance poverty eradication and sustainable development, including climate action.
- Illuminate the potential of information and technology for sustainable development.
- Build on UNFCCC COP21 and demonstrate how climate action can support SDG implementation..
- Forge partnerships to achieve and enable innovative solutions to the 2030 Agenda.

**Format:**

This event will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders over two days in New York to focus on kick-starting SDG implementation. It will also be a unique opportunity to address the synergy between the COP21 outcome and the 2030 Agenda. Leaders will be offered a platform to catalyse action, discuss concrete steps forward and mobilize potential implementation partners. *Five focus areas have been selected to contribute to the above outcomes with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and capacity building.*

1. Action at all levels: Member States have committed to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. All actors, led by national governments, will need to work to deliver sustainable development which leaves no-one behind.
2. Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development: Implementing the 2030 Agenda and fulfilling COP21 commitments, requires substantial financial resources as well as sound regulatory frameworks. Public and private finance as well as domestic and international finance must be urgently mobilized.
3. Technology and information for decision-making: The development and diffusion of new technologies and the collection of high quality, timely and reliable information and data are important means of implementing the SDGs. We need to improve access to technology, as well as capacity for technology development, and ensure that the best available information technology tools and information sources are used across sectors such as clean energy, health and information.
4. Climate action in the context of sustainable development; The world is on the cusp of a landmark climate agreement at COP21. This is only the start of the journey. We need to build from the baseline of COP 21 through climate action which supports successful and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs: This new Agenda will only be realized if the implementation process is partnership based, fully inclusive, transparent and accountable.

**Background:**

A major priority of the 70<sup>th</sup> President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mogens Lykketoft is to support prompt and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It builds on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to address their unfinished business. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda supports, complements and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, . The COP21 climate change agreement is expected to be adopted in December 2015 in Paris.