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**STATEMENT BY
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ON
MONTENEGRO AGENDA ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA**

5TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Excellences

Distinguished participants

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for convening this meeting and most importantly for inviting me to speak during this important Regional Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development.

I will start by giving some background on the events that preceded discussion on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Efforts to develop a post 2015 development agenda started from the United Nation Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 which was held in Rio De Janeiro, in Brazil. The outcome document of that conference “The Future We Want” contained a proposal to establish an Open Working Group of 30 members who were tasked with preparing a set of sustainable development goals.

There were other related elements recognized by the Rio outcome document such as the need for mobilization of the required resources in order to effectively finance sustainable development. This process tasked the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing to prepare a report recommending options for an effective sustainable development financing and how the resources can be mobilized for utilization in the achieving sustainable development objectives.

Member states were also tasked to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that would promote development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Various thematic debates of this agenda have taken place during the just ended 68th session of the General Assembly.

The Open Working Group on sustainable development goals had a total of thirteen sessions out of which eight were stock taking sessions. During the stock taking session, member states and other multi stakeholders were given an opportunity of making contributions to the various topics that were being discussed. The stock taking session was followed a consolidation session that put together the various inputs and subsequently developed a sustainable development goals document.

After one and half years of negotiations, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals came up with a proposal of 17 goals and 169 targets which have since been adopted by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly requested members to make inputs to the elements that will be reflected in the Secretary General report which is expected out in a short while. The report will contain various post 2015 development related processes which have taken place during the just ended session of the General Assembly. Member states have effectively made their presentation to the inputs in the expected synthesis report which should also be able to elaborate the post 2015 development agenda

The report is expected to reflect the key messages that have emanated from the various high level events and debates which have taken place. These are as follows;

- The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
- The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing
- The structured dialogues on technology facilitation mechanism
- Updates of the High Level Political Forum

- The ECOSOC forum such as the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum.

What then is expected on the post 2015 development agenda?

We have had and continue to have discussions on the shape and design of this agenda in various forums. Whereas most of the views are as varied as the member states on the organizations, you will definitely agree with me that they seem to coalesce around the following areas.

There is consensus on having visionary, ambitious, achievable, monitorable and accountable agenda which takes care of the current and future generations without leaving anyone behind.

It is important to note that other processes are expected which will also and importantly shape the agenda such as the forthcoming third conference for financing for development to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July, 2014. The outcome of the conference which will build on the Monterey consensus and Doha declaration of financing for development will provide valuable inputs to the next phase of the discussion of financing for development.

Determining the key elements of the agenda will definitely require going beyond the MDG and its unfinished business. Then how can the agenda be determine?

The answer does not lie in the discussions but rather on the contemporary development and emerging challenges that require to be handled in a balanced manner in order to achieve sustainable development. Which are these elements

which if addressed in one area will significant and positively impact other areas in a mutually reinforcing manner?

The agenda should address the issue of inequalities with specific reference to countries in special situations in order to reduce inequalities among countries and among people in order to provide decent life to all. This resonates from the Rio declaration that places people at the center of development.

There is appetite for an in depth discussion on the means of implementation, technology facilitation and poverty eradication for a more comprehensive and wider dialogue.

The elements contained in the SDG which are current and contemporary such as poverty, inequality, gender equality, energy, water, infrastructure and climate change should be the main basis for the agenda as they go beyond the MDG horizon.

Most of the views strongly support a fit for purpose mechanism that will ensure the effective implementation of the agenda. The goals and targets should now move to developing monitorable indicators that can feed into policies, programmes and projects.

Whereas poverty eradication continues to feature prominently in the consideration for the new agenda, other equally and contemporary issue for consideration such as food and nutrition, strengthening inclusive growth, gender equality, access to sustainable energy, climate change and peaceful and just societies are very important and mutually reinforcing to the main agenda.

How then will the process evolve?

Most of the views from the member states are supportive of a replica of the SDG process which had inclusive participation of all stakeholders. The OWG process benefited greatly from the contributions of the academia, business, civil society organizations and various other stakeholders. Encouraging their participation in this agenda would be critical in ensuring ownership and implementation of the broader agenda.

Similarly there were concerted views that the agenda would immensely benefit from communication, branding and innovations as key in order for it to rise above MDGs and even meet the heightened expectations of the international community.

The secretary general's report will contain the main inputs to the intergovernmental process leading to the post 2015 development discussions and the adoption of the agenda in a years' time.

Thank You