



Closing Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Collin D. Beck

Vice President

on behalf of

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe

President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

High-level Stock-taking event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Contributions to the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report

Closing Session

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Please check against delivery.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Speakers and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of this High-level stocktaking event, the last event in the series I hosted as part of the theme of the session: “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage”. At the outset, I would like to thank our distinguished speakers and panellists for their presentations and insights during the past two days, as well as the Secretariat and in particular the Department of Social and Economic Affairs for its valued support.

As we reach the conclusion of this series of events, I extend my appreciation to Member States representatives, who throughout the session have engaged and actively participated in this process. Your level of participation is testament to your commitment to achieving an ambitious, inclusive and forward-looking agenda.

I would also like to acknowledge the unprecedented engagement of civil society representatives in these meetings. You have added your voices to the decision-making process that will lead to the new global agenda. You have been and will continue to be an integral partner and your role will be critical in holding Governments and the private sector accountable for the commitments that will be made.

Excellencies,

In your discussions over the last couple of days, you have reflected upon the various post-2015 processes that unfolded during the 68th session, including the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the means of implementation, and options for a monitoring and review framework. Allow me to highlight some of the key messages that have emerged from your deliberations.

The critical importance of a visionary, transformative, ambitious, achievable and monitorable post-2015 development agenda was recognized by all speakers. Noting that the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report will provide the launching pad for your negotiations leading up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, it was pointed out that the report should reflect all processes that originated from Rio+20, namely the report of the OWG on SDGs,

the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the summary of the dialogues and recommendations on the technology facilitation mechanism. Inputs from other intergovernmental processes, such as the upcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development should also be included. I was pleased to hear that the series of events I hosted during the session was also welcome, providing valuable inputs into the Secretary-General's synthesis report.

Many noted that the intergovernmental process needs to be inclusive and transparent to deliver an agenda that reaches those in need, including countries in special circumstances; it must reduce inequalities and provides a decent life for all. Speakers called for pursuing the inclusive participation of all stakeholders, which has characterized the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, the role of youth and children was highlighted as well as the contribution of the private sector.

It was recognized that the proposal of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was the result of tremendous effort by Member States and also benefited from contributions from academia, business and civil society and other stakeholders. However, different views were expressed on the way forward. Some cautioned against reopening a carefully crafted and balanced outcome. Others called for further enhancing the framework by reducing the number of goals and targets or giving greater attention to issues such as rule of law, the promotion of peaceful societies, human rights, access to justice, and gender equality. We also heard concerns that the implementation of such a large number of stand-alone goals would be extremely difficult. The reference to goal-specific means of implementation that was adopted by the Open Working Group was mentioned by many as a promising avenue.

Indeed, all agreed that the success of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs will depend critically on effective means of implementation. While it was noted that the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) provides a comprehensive menu of options that countries can consider, perceptions differed among Member States as to whether the report had struck the right balance in terms of the importance of different sources of financing. Many countries underlined the crucial role that ODA will continue to play, both as a direct source of financing and as an enabler. The role of private finance and its prominence in the context of the new agenda was a point

of debate. The need to recognize the separate and complementary nature of South-South cooperation, in relation to North-South cooperation, was also emphasized.

Many speakers saw technology as a key enabler for sustainable development and the thematic dialogues on technology convened this year confirmed the need to improve the current fragmented system to support technology development, transfer, and dissemination.

Finally, it was reiterated that a renewed global partnership for development should reflect the paradigm of the new agenda, particularly its universal nature, and be supported by a strong accountability framework.

Such a framework should be inclusive and engage the wide participation of peoples and citizens, at the community, local, national and global levels in order to ensure broad-based ownership and accountability among Member States and all actors. In this regard, monitoring and accountability should be based on sound data and evidence. Measurable indicators and mechanisms to support implementation and evaluation will be needed and it will be critical to strengthen statistical capabilities and capacity building. While the role of existing accountability mechanisms was underscored, countries noted that the new UN institutional architecture such as the High-level Political Forum under the General Assembly and ECOSOC, as well as the UN Environment Assembly, will provide a concrete foundation to build upon.

Distinguished delegates,

A summary of these key messages will be presented to the Secretary-General as an input to his synthesis report. It will also be transmitted to my successor, the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly, H.E. Sam Kutesa and made available to Member States and other stakeholders.

As we carry this work forward, it is my hope that we have achieved the goal set out last September: to set the stage for an ambitious, inclusive and transformative post-2015 agenda. I believe we have made significant progress. I now look forward to seeing the next steps and like all of you, I look forward to the day in 2015 when our world leaders collectively adopt an

agenda that resonates far and wide and leads to better lives for millions of people and safeguards the future of our planet.

Thank you.
