

Check against delivery

**Statement**

**By**

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**At**

**The General Debate of the Second Committee of the  
67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

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New York.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to preside over the Second Committee. I can assure you, and the bureau, of my delegation's full support and cooperation to make the work of the Committee a success.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representatives of the Group of 77 and China, Group of the Least Developed Countries, Group of Land Locked Developing Countries and the African Group, respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Recent reports indicate that the overall global economic situation continues to be dire, and that whatever recovery might have taken place has been uneven and fragile. Sovereign debt distress, fragile banking sector and weak aggregate demand associated with high unemployment, have further undermined the global outlook of economic growth in many parts of the world. Although many developing countries, including those in Sub-Saharan Africa, are showing signs of recovery, the overall unhelpful aspect of the global economic environment has limited their ability to create jobs, make significant progress in reducing poverty and lay the basis for the desired sustainable economic growth. Thus, internationally coordinated action and greater emphasis on policies

to stimulate job creation and investment in infrastructure and productive capacities will be very critical to ensure a sustainable growth trajectory. Policy makers in the advanced economies need to respond to the current economic challenges and take urgent measures to address weaknesses in public and financial sectors to restore confidence and prevent the further deterioration of the global economic situation. No doubt the latest forecast concerning a wide spectrum of countries is not very encouraging.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In this regard, the uncertainty in the global economic outlook has also represented serious setbacks in the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the progress made in reducing extreme poverty by half, prevalence of hunger and malnutrition still remains high, especially in sub-Saharan African Countries. Though there has been some progress made towards gender equality, women remain in a disadvantaged situation in regards to access to productive employment opportunities, productive resources, sexual and reproductive health care and with respect to political decision making. Moreover, the target of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015 seems to be difficult to attain. Progress on achieving the environmental Goals has also been far from being within reach. The challenges posed by climate change, such as, increased frequency of natural disasters, including droughts and flooding, and other extreme weather

conditions further constrained developing countries' abilities to achieve the MDGs.

No doubt, the success of achieving the Millennium Development Goals hinges, to a large extent, on Goal eight, global partnership for development. However, despite global dialogue and renewed commitments made in the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for action, Gleneagles Summit and in the Bussan partnership for effective development cooperation, significant gaps remain in delivering the required development aid. It is regrettable to note the decline of Official Development Assistance to developing countries in 2011 by three percent from its level in 2010. This is emblematic of the major challenge those countries, particularly the LDC's face in securing the needed development. Similarly, the negotiation on the Doha development round of trade negotiations are in a deadlock and the call to exempt least developed countries from duties and quotas still remain unanswered. There are still large gaps in improving access to affordable essential medicines, which is vital to accelerate the progress on health related goals.

Closing the gap in the delivery of stable and effective Official Development Assistance to developing countries, in particular to LDCs will be critical to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and targets before its 2015 deadline. In addition, access to information and communication technologies and technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation will be very crucial

towards bridging the global digital divide and to minimize the impacts of climate change.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ethiopia firmly believes that the vision embodied in the Millennium Declaration should be the starting point in the design and formulation of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The process should build on the achievements of MDGs and address its shortcomings. Issues that are not included in the MDGs but that are emerging as the most pressing in recent years including employment, sustainability and climate change, and inequalities within and between countries will need to be given the necessary consideration. Issues pertaining to the development aspiration of developing countries, inter alia, inclusive economic growth and productive employment, disaster risk reduction and resilience, should be at the top of the post 2015 UN development agenda. The post-2015 development agenda should need to place much more emphasis on the growing vulnerability of the poor to the effects of natural disasters and economic shocks. In this regard, the follow-up to the Rio+20 outcomes including the establishment of working group on SDGs and financing mechanisms and strengthening the intergovernmental arrangement for sustainable development should be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner. On our part, Ethiopia is ready to engage in a meaningful manner in this exercise.

Last but not least, my delegation believes that the specific development needs of the least developed countries should be kept high in the international development agenda. The follow-up mechanism of the Istanbul Programme of Action should be put in place to ensure its timely and effective implementation. We wish to see that the issues of LDCs are properly addressed in the forthcoming intergovernmental processes.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, the tasks ahead of us are decisive in terms of injecting fresh impetus for the international community to address various development challenges through inclusive sustainable development and economic growth. We need to work together to ensure a better future for the generation to come.

**I thank you.**