Statement by H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN – Synergies between the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Addis Financing for Development Conference

30 January 2015

- At the outset, and speaking also on behalf of Ambassador Kamau who is unfortunately unavailable today, let me thank you Ambassadors Talbot and Pedersen for giving me this opportunity to provide an update on the post 2015 development agenda negotiations. Your own contribution to the Stocktaking meeting we had last week and your continued openness and engagement is very much appreciated by both of us. We look forward to continued coordination as the negotiations evolve.

- The need to maximise coherence between the FfD, climate change and the post-2015 processes is obvious. Since you briefed the Stocktaking session, your elements paper has of course been issued and we were very much encouraged by its scope and contents.

- I know there many familiar faces in the room today. Indeed, Ambassador Pedersen demonstrated at last week’s session that a large number of those participating in that session would also be present here today.

- For the benefit of those who have joined us from capitals, however, including those from Finance or Planning ministries; let me give you a very quick update on where things stand. In doing so, I will also touch on some of the areas where there are clear linkages with the FFD process.

- As you know only too well, the Post 2015 development agenda is to be adopted by Heads of State and Government next September. Following a decision by the GA in early January, it is likely to have four major components: a Declaration, SDGs and targets, Global Partnership and Means of Implementation and Follow up and Review.

- The first session of negotiations on what will eventually be our outcome document for September took place last week. By the end of that session, member states and civil society representatives had provided the co-facilitators there with a wide range of proposals on both substance and process. We found it a very valuable engagement all round.

- On the Declaration, we listened carefully to suggestions around the type of declaration which would best capture the essence of the post 2015 agenda. We are now developing an
elements paper in relation to that Declaration which we will circulate shortly in advance of the next set of negotiations in our track which begin on February 17th.

- On the Goals and targets, there was a clear preference for not re-opening the substance of the OWG proposal. Some proposals were also made on a possible technical proofing and on indicators. At the March negotiation session, member states will have the opportunity to discuss a set of indicative global indicators which is being developed by the UN Statistical Commission at present at our request and to discuss the feedback we receive from the Commission on some technical issues relating to the targets. Delegates in the FFD process will note that the Commission is looking at indicators for each of the 17 goals, including therefore, Goal 17.

- Here we are presented with one of the main challenges in terms of ensuring coherence between the two sets of negotiations, given the overlap between the MOI Goal 17, the Monterrey Consensus and indeed, the FFD elements paper you have been discussing these past couple of days.

- A second challenge lies in the fact that there will be in the post 2015 agenda a dedicated component dealing with the Global Partnership and Means of implementation.

- And a further area of overlap relates to follow-up and review, on which last week many member states in our negotiations emphasised very strongly that accountability for the post 2015 agenda must not be limited to monitoring of progress on targets alone, but also be extended to monitoring of means of implementation commitments.

- These areas of overlap were outlined very clearly last week by Ambassadors Talbot and Pedersen.

- Speaking also on behalf of Ambassador Kamau, let me say that for us, the FFD and Post 2015 negotiations are in effect two sides of the same coin – success in one will not be possible without success in the other. We each have a strong interest in supporting and ensuring the success of the other track.

- Indeed your endeavours as delegates and our endeavours as co-facilitators, whether in these negotiations or in the post 2015 negotiations, represent a collective effort to deliver key outcomes in July and September which will help all countries to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development.

- That is our common objective and we must therefore find ways to organise our work over the coming months to achieve this in the most effective manner.

- Thankfully, many of you here have been grappling with the very questions and during these past few days, I understand that suggestions have been made about the possibility of holding joint sessions, with which I am in absolute agreement, about how to feed and
integrate the Addis Outcome into the Post 2015 agenda and about how we should structure the Addis and September Outcome Documents.

- At this stage, it is difficult and perhaps even counterproductive to draw strict lines of demarcation between both tracks and what they will cover. Instead, we must advance on both tracks together, in a coordinated and coherent fashion and without duplication.

- Ambassador Kamau and I are in constant contact with the two co-facilitators and we are indeed looking into holding joint sessions and anything that will strengthen synergies and ensure coherence between these two processes.

- I look forward to engaging on these issues with you all over the weeks and months ahead and, indeed to continued collaboration with your co-facilitators.

- Thank you.