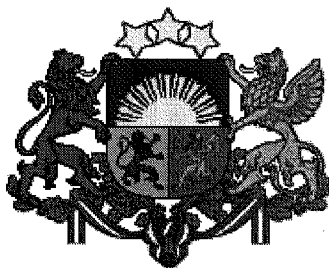


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**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of**  
**Latvia**

**at**

**the Special Event of the President of the General**  
**Assembly to follow-up efforts made towards**  
**achieving the Millennium Development Goals**

**United Nations, New York**  
**25 September 2013**

Mister President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

This event presents an opportunity to strengthen the impetus for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provide further guidance for the elaboration of an overarching post-2015 framework.

We highly value the work that has been done during the past year under the UN leadership both on stocktaking on the MDGs, and outlining the vision for the post-2015 agenda.

The MDGs have been a good mobiliser of global efforts to reduce poverty and enhance development. The pace of development in the past decades has been remarkable, yet not sufficient to ensure well-being, dignity, justice, security, equality and opportunities for everyone. The challenge to meet those goals is both a matter of responsibility and solidarity. Our every effort and present achievement is a foundation for even greater progress after 2015.

Mr. President,

Latvia remains committed to the MDGs and determined to expand our contribution to the global development efforts.

We see Latvia's successful reform experience as our unique building block in the global development architecture. We continue to share this expertise with our partners that undergo a democratic and economic transition process.

Mr President,

Let me now briefly highlight how Latvia sees the post-2015 development agenda.

Elements of basic living standards, drivers for inclusive and sustainable growth, equity, equality and security should be at the core of the new agenda.

We see the framework as universally applicable, addressing the most compelling global challenges and balancing ambition and realism, while respecting diverse perspectives and realities of each country.

Latvia attaches great importance to effective, open and accountable institutions that ensure government accountability and respect for human rights.

Every country holds individual responsibility for its development path. We firmly believe that domestic resource mobilization is a

catalytic element for fulfilling national development targets and decreasing aid dependency.

Focusing on sustainable solutions that balance economic, social and environmental aspects is decisive. Here we see the huge potential of technological innovations.

We want to see the world where everyone has the opportunity to be involved. Hence, also the evolving discussion around the post-2015 framework has to be open, inclusive and participatory.

Proclaiming the ambition of a world where no one is left behind means accepting more responsibility not only by the better-off societies and countries. It is a shared responsibility.

Changing the way we think and the way we act is an obligation towards future generations. The opportunity to start the change is now. Let us not miss it!

Thank you.