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Statement of the First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Mr. Anatoliy Maksiuta at the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals
(New York, 25 September 2013)

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

We are here today to assess our progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which are like a report card that helps us to judge our performance.

In terms of **poverty**, Ukraine has seen a reduction in the poverty rate in absolute terms. Specifically, the share of the population whose daily consumption is below 5 USD went down from 11.9 percent in 2000 to 2.3 percent in 2012. The poverty rate also went down in relative terms – to 25.5 percent in 2012. However, almost every third family with children is poor, as is every fifth working person. This calls for more consistent action at policy level.

On education, there have been important steps towards reform and ensuring high-quality, lifelong education for all people. Among younger children, 93 percent in urban areas and 57.6 percent in rural areas are enrolled in pre-school education. Nearly 99.5 percent of children in Ukraine are enrolled in general secondary education, and nearly half of young people (45.7 percent) attend higher education. However, there is still a need to ensure that educational curricula conform to the requirements of the labour market. By implementing the measures stipulated in the National Strategy of Education Development in Ukraine until 2021, we can ensure that this goal is achieved by 2015.

In terms of gender equality, there are still challenges. Achieving gender parity within authorities and public administration remains a critical task despite successes at the legislative and institutional levels. After the elections in 2012, the number of female Members of Parliament increased to 9.4 percent of the total. An average wage gap between men and women of about 30 percent is another manifestation of gender inequality. There is a clear need for stronger political will.

Child mortality reduced by nearly half from 1995 to 2012 (from 14.7 to 8.4 deaths per 1000 live births) due to purposeful efforts, including reforming and developing the perinatal care system. Eleven modern perinatal centres have been set up, and

another nine are due to open. The progress in this area is significant, and Ukraine expects to exceed its targets.

There have also been positive trends in the area of **maternal health**. Maternal mortality in Ukraine reduced by nearly half from 2000 to 2012 (from 24.7 to 12.5 deaths per 100,000 live births); and more than 90 percent of all women undergo regular medical examinations in the early stages of pregnancy. However, young people have a very low level of recognition of their personal responsibility for their own health, and of healthy lifestyles.

And there is good news in the areas of **HIV and tuberculosis (TB)**: in 2012, for the first time since the epidemic began, the number of new cases of HIV has started to decline (by 1.7 percent compared to 2011). There are an estimated 220,000 HIV-positive people in Ukraine; and HIV prevalence among adults is 0.57 percent. The achievements are mainly due to preventive measures among key populations at higher risk, better organization of the response to the epidemic, and the implementation of national programmes.

There has been some progress in ensuring **environmental sustainability**, but more needs to be done. The impact of human activity has left about 70 percent of surface water and a large share of groundwater resources unsafe to drink. In 2012, 4.3 million tons of pollutants were emitted into the air. Achieving the goal on environmental sustainability will require better management of natural resources, a consistent environmental policy, and modernization of production.

In Ukraine the national consultations to define the Post-2015 Development Agenda were held in early 2013. They involved more than 25,000 people, about 11,000 Ukrainians participated in the MY World global survey. I would like to note that Ukraine has been selected as **the Winner of the My World Outreach Award for Europe & CIS and North America**.

Based on the findings of the national consultation and experts' opinions, Ukrainian society has identified the following post-2015 development priorities: equal opportunities and social justice; honest authorities; efficient health care; decent work; a modern economy; a healthy environment; accessible and high-quality education; a developed infrastructure. The results of the national consultations are the basis for the National Report "**Post-2015 Ukraine: The future we want**".

The MDGs are making a real difference in people's lives, and, with strong leadership and accountability, this progress can be expanded in most of the world's countries by the target date of 2015. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should become a reference point for development, sparking a global conversation that **responds to a growing call for active participation** in shaping the 'world we want'.

I thank you.