



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 December 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward to you a Note on the preliminary organisational arrangements for the four High-Level Thematic Debates and one High-Level Event which I intend to convene in the first half of 2015.

As you recall, in my Acceptance Speech in June and in the Statement at the opening of the 69th Session in September, I informed Member States that I would convene high-level thematic debates and events focusing on the theme “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda” as well as the priorities for the sixty-ninth session.

The purpose of the attached Note is to provide information on the organisational arrangements and tentative programme for the High-level meetings and Event. Further details including Concept Notes and Background Papers for each of these meetings will be availed in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATES AND EVENTS TO BE CONVENED BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NOTE ON ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Introduction

1. On June 11, 2014 the President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly, in his Acceptance Speech, chose the theme: “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda,” for the 69th session, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 58/126.
2. The President of the General Assembly also outlined seven priority areas for the session namely: the post-2015 development agenda; combatting climate change; advancing gender equality and empowerment of women; strengthening cooperation between the UN and regional organizations; peaceful settlement of disputes and peacebuilding; revitalization of the General Assembly and reform of the Security Council; and enhancing the role of the UN Alliance of Civilizations.
3. In resolution 68/6, containing the outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation decided that “In parallel with the intensification of efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, we are determined to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda that will build on the foundation laid by the Goals, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges.” They further decided to “launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.”
4. By its resolution 67/297, the General Assembly recognized “the value of holding interactive, inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community” and “invited the President of the General assembly to continue this practice.”
5. The President intends to convene high-level thematic debates and events that will focus on the theme and the priorities for the 69th session.
6. The main objective of the high-level thematic debates and event is to enable member states and stakeholders to have in-depth exchange of views, in an interactive and participatory manner. It is envisaged that these meetings will contribute towards formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and mobilizing means for its implementation, while fully recognizing the mandated intergovernmental processes.

7. In order to promote coordination and synergy, the preparations for the high-level thematic debates and event will be done in liaison with the co-facilitators for the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and for the Third Conference on Financing for Development. The PGA will also draw on support from the UN system as appropriate.

8. More detailed Concept Notes, Background Papers and Programmes for each thematic debate and event will be provided in due course.

High-Level Thematic Debates and Event

9. The President intends to convene high-level thematic debates and an event as indicated below:

- i) High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 development agenda (9-10 February 2015)
- ii) High-Level Thematic Debate on Advancing Gender equality and empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 development agenda (March 6, 2015)
- iii) High-Level Thematic Debate on Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation (6 or 10 April 2015 tbc)
- iv) High-Level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations (May 15, 2015)
- v) High-Level Event on Climate Change (29 June 2015).

Organization

10. The High-level thematic debates and Event will be convened by the President of the General Assembly, and will consist of an opening segment, two interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions, and a closing segment. The outcome for each of the debates and event will be a President's summary. Member States will be invited to participate at the highest possible level, as well as Observers, UN Agencies, and other stakeholders.