



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 February 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Summary of the key messages and proposals from the High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, which I convened on 9-10 February 2015.

As I indicated in my opening and closing Statements during the thematic debate, the proposals contained in the Summary could be considered in the on-going negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Third Conference on Financing for Development.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', written in a cursive style.

Sam K. Kutesa

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

**Summary of the President of the General Assembly**  
**High-level Thematic Debate on “Means of implementation for a  
transformative post-2015 development agenda”**

**9 – 10 February 2015**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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The High-level thematic debate focused on the need to mobilize adequate means of implementation – finances, technology development and capacity building – for a transformative post-2015 development agenda, and on the important role that parliaments, cities and local authorities will play in implementing the new development agenda.

The following are the key messages and proposals that emerged from the Thematic Debate.

**Plenary – A renewed Global Partnership for Development**

1. In order to implement an ambitious, transformative, universal and people-centered agenda with poverty eradication and achievement of sustainable development as its core objectives, scaled-up resources will have to be mobilized from all sources and utilized effectively.
2. The universality of the new agenda should be reflected in ownership, where all countries and stakeholders support implementation while national leadership, policies and priorities are fully respected.
3. There is urgent need to embark on a sustainable development pathway in order to achieve sustained economic growth, end poverty and take bold measures to address climate change. Participants highlighted the need to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the remaining period and to carry forward the “unfinished business” into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs should inform the post-2015 development agenda.
4. In view of the ambition and scope of the new agenda covering the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as reflected in the proposed 17 SDGs, the resources required will be much more than were needed for the MDGs.

It was noted, for instance, that emerging estimates indicated that additional financing for eradication of extreme poverty is in the range of US\$ 66 billion annually, while investments required for critical infrastructure, including transport, energy, water and sanitation are estimated to cost up to US\$ 70 trillion by 2030.

5. Participants stressed the need to create coherence and synergy between the three major intergovernmental processes currently underway: the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Post-2015 development agenda and negotiations on a universal agreement on climate change. The Third Financing for Development Conference scheduled for 13-16 July 2015 provides an opportunity to develop a comprehensive financing framework and a revitalized global partnership for development. In this context, the need for a successful outcome with concrete deliverables and actionable commitments from the Addis Ababa Conference, to support implementation of the new agenda, was underscored.

6. The global partnership for development should be revitalized and underpinned by the principles of universality, national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability at all levels. It should promote mobilisation of the financial and non-financial resources for implementation of the new agenda, foster an enabling environment and encourage sound and coherent policies and good governance. In this context, the critical role of North-South, South-South as well as triangular cooperation in the global partnership was emphasized.

7. The mobilisation of all resources - public and private, national and international - as well as their effective use will be vital for the successful implementation of the new agenda. Participants reaffirmed that the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration provide a holistic basis for the Financing for Development process and highlighted the core sources of financing and parameters under which means for implementation for the post-2015 development agenda can be delivered. The need to address synergies between traditional development financing and climate financing was also stressed.

8. While the primary responsibility for implementing the new agenda, of which SDGs will be the main component, lies with countries and governments, multi-stakeholder partnerships should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened, through engagement of a variety of actors from the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organisations, among others.

9. Scaling-up domestic resource mobilization will be crucial in financing the new development agenda.

In this regard, public administration reform and good governance can help ensure effective and efficient use of public resources. Support from the international community is important, including capacity building for more efficient taxation, revenue collection and revenue management systems. Efforts to broaden the tax base, combat corruption, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows should be stepped up. While tax collection is a national prerogative, international cooperation should be enhanced to fight tax evasion. The Third Financing for Development Conference could provide an opportunity for initiatives on tax cooperation.

10. Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains an important source of financing for many developing countries. Many participants called for fulfilment of existing ODA commitments, enhancing its predictability, and providing it to those in most need, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), countries affected by conflict, and lower middle income countries. It was proposed that at least 50% of ODA be allocated to LDCs, and that ODA should also be used strategically to leverage and catalyse other sources of financing, as well as improving productive capacities. Aid for Trade is a useful mechanism to improve developing countries' participation in international trade, through technical cooperation, investment in infrastructure and capacity-building.

11. The private sector, ranging from small and medium enterprises to corporations and multinationals is an important engine for economic growth, trade, innovation, and job creation. Concerns about the profit-oriented, short-term perspective of the private sector remain. The private sector should do more to contribute towards sustainable development, complementing the role of governments and the public sector. Promotion of domestic and foreign direct investments will be critical for economic growth and employment creation.

12. Innovative sources of financing and blended instruments were recognized for the potential role they have in increasing the resources for investment in sustainable development. Private flows of remittances remain important and the need to reduce the costs of remittances was stressed.

13. The critical contribution of trade to economic growth and its linkage with financing for development was highlighted. In this regard, many participants reiterated the need for an open, transparent, fair and non-discriminatory trading system and called for conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

14. Participants underlined the importance of science, technology and innovation in achieving a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

In this context, promoting technology development and transfer and capacity-building will be critical, and the recommendations in the report on the structured dialogues on a technology facilitation mechanism should be considered in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Proposals were made for the establishment of an online platform on technology and knowledge sharing, creation of a technology bank for LDCs, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for technology development and transfer.

15. The need for protection of national policy space, promotion of shared values, inclusiveness and combating inequality among and within countries, as well as promoting gender equality, youth employment, protection of all human rights was highlighted as critical. Adherence to the Rio principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), and addressing the needs of countries in special situations, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, was stressed.

16. Enabling environments at both the domestic and international levels were emphasized as critical, including the need to address systemic issues. Efforts to reform the global governance architecture should be further pursued, especially the international economic and financial governance, including through strengthening developing countries' voice in global decision-making and norm setting. Some delegations also underscored debt relief and sovereign debt sustainability.

17. Monitoring, review, and accountability will be needed to follow up on commitments undertaken for implementation of the new agenda. Proposals were made that the framework for review and follow-up should build on a multi-layered approach, operating at local, national, regional and international levels, and involving all stakeholders. The importance of reliable data for evidence-based decision-making, planning, monitoring and review was underscored.

### **Panel 1 - Infrastructure Development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Partnerships for Realizing the SDGs**

18. Infrastructure development is a prerequisite for economic growth and poverty eradication. Investments in critical infrastructure, especially in the sectors of energy, transport, water and sanitation, agriculture, health and education, will require substantially increased investments to achieve a transformative post-2015 development agenda.

19. There is a huge financing gap for infrastructure even though at the global level, liquidity is abundant.

While countries should continue to increase domestic resources allocated to infrastructure development, measures should be taken to increase access to long-term international financing, including at concessional rates. In addition, devising the right instruments to tap into the significant resources held by banks, insurance funds, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and capital markets, among others, could significantly increase the resources for infrastructure development. The risks in terms of debt and fiscal sustainability have to be fully considered.

20. Identifying appropriate instruments and mechanisms for matching private capital with attractive pipelines of infrastructure investments is essential. Multilateral development banks should continue working together to address the weakness of project pipelines and should be engaged in the context of the Third Financing for Development Conference. The World Bank and other international financing institutions are working together to address the barriers to private financing of infrastructure in developing countries, focusing on the preparation of bankable projects, including through improving access to country-specific information.

21. Support for regional infrastructure projects, such as those planned under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in sectors such as transport, energy, water and ICT, will contribute to enhancing regional integration and pooling of resources.

It was noted that well planned public-private partnerships in infrastructure could have significant delivery potential. In Africa, for instance, private participation in infrastructure has risen by 10% over the last 10 years.

22. Promoting partnerships will be essential in efforts towards achieving the SDGs. It is important to consider which areas of the SDGs already have effective partnerships in place, such as health, education, water and sanitation, and those "new" areas that will require building partnerships including infrastructure, employment creation, and peaceful and inclusive societies.

23. The need to build on successful initiatives such as Roll Back Malaria; Every Woman, Every Child; the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI); and the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; which have had a significant impact in the health sector, was recommended. Greater efforts should be put on increasing resources for the education sector and the creation of jobs for youth, which would require more robust industrialization and better infrastructure.

24. The post-2015 development agenda offers a unique opportunity to align private finance and the private sector with the UN and public policy goals.

While progress has been made on corporate social responsibility, a more substantive contribution from the private sector is needed.

**Panel 2 – The role of parliaments, cities and local authorities in the implementation of the post- 2015 Development Agenda**

25. The important role that parliaments, cities and local authorities will play in ensuring that the new agenda is implemented on the ground was underscored.

26. In view of their representative, legislative and oversight functions, parliaments have a critical role in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, through ensuring that internationally agreed goals are incorporated into national policies, both through legislation and budgeting. Parliaments were also called upon to raise awareness on the new agenda both nationally and internationally, through parliamentary networks.

27. Proposals were made for greater participation of parliamentarians in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including an initiative by a global group of parliaments to set up an international online platform to exchange good practices on legislation that is conducive to promoting sustainable development, which could be widely accessed by parliamentarians in different countries and be considered for adaptation to their own realities. The contribution of ICT in promoting better cooperation was highlighted.

28. Sustainable urbanisation will be vital for the promotion of an inclusive agenda that leaves no one behind. Cities and local authorities bring unique expertise in the delivery of basic social services including education, health, water and sanitation, and housing that will be vital for the implementation of the SDGs. Cities and local governments should increase environmental protection initiatives and consideration should be made for them to access climate finance mechanisms.

29. The important role of local authorities in the promotion of sustainable development, through enhancing the participation of local communities and citizens, was underscored. The constraints of insufficient resources as well as planning and budgeting capacity at local level should be addressed, and scaling up resource mobilization for cities and local authorities was highlighted as paramount.

30. Proposals were made for increased technical assistance and capacity building to local authorities, especially in the areas of project development and debt management; further development and promotion of local taxation and access to credit. There was also a call for better data on cities in order to inform decision making and planning.