



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Madam Chairperson,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Jamaica on behalf of G77 and China and we would like to emphasize one of the points mentioned in that statement.

The world leaders, gathered in Johannesburg, emphasized that foreign occupation constitutes a severe threat to sustainable development.

In this context, and while we are discussing the crosscutting issues, we would like to reiterate what we said in previous meetings on sustainable development. It is impossible to envisage actions in areas of poverty eradication, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, developing the health sector, empowerment of woman and advancing education, under foreign occupation.

Also, in this context, we cannot ignore violations to sovereignty of people living under foreign occupation over their natural resources, including water. Nor can we ignore the fact that foreign occupation impedes national development plans, including in the area of sanitation. And we cannot fail to mention the obstacles posed by illegal settlements emerging from foreign occupation to the development of legal settlement.

For millions of people suffering from foreign occupation, our deliberations here would be fruitless and meaningless if we do not tackle these problems, since we cannot achieve sustainable development or even unsustainable development in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, under foreign occupation, which should be eliminated.

Thank you.