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HLPF, HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT, GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

DELIVERED BY
MS. RIIKKA LAATU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MFA

Mr/Madame Vice-President,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Finland aligns herself with the EU statement delivered by Commissioner Vella and would like to emphasize two key issues in her national capacity.

Firstly, we will need a well-functioning and credible monitoring, accountability and review mechanism. It is needed for several purposes: for accountability, for learning from successes and failures, for pointing to additional actions needed in the course of implementation, for encouraging countries in their actions, and for communication.

The HLPF was established as the main body for the follow-up of the Post-2015 Agenda, and has a strong mandate in the monitoring, follow-up and review of the Agenda. However, as an institution, the HLPF is still in the process of formation. Now is the time to operationalize the mandate, and develop and discuss guidelines for our future work. By next year, the HLPF should be ready for action as an apex of a global review.

Based on the discussions we have had in this year's HLPF, Finland would like to underline the importance of the following issues:

- 1) It is important that the HLPF very quickly claims its place in the monitoring, accountability and review system. We think it is a good idea for the 2016 session to invite member states to introduce their implementation plans for the Post-2015 Agenda by describing, how they are integrating the SDGs into their national policies. After 2016, the focus must be on monitoring the implementation of all SDGs, including the means of implementation.
- 2) The Global Sustainable Development Report should be produced every four years in time for the meeting of the HLPF at the level of Heads of State and Government. This would underline the Report's political importance and ensure high-level attention. The GSDR should also be used for communicating the agenda.
- 3) Effective participation and meaningful contribution of all stakeholders in the HLPF is crucial. For us, it is important that the voices of civil society and private sector will not only be heard, but also taken into account. This is one of the great novelties of the HLPF, and crucial for the HLPF's ability to foster new partnerships;
- 4) The HLPF should have adequate resources to effectively and efficiently conduct its annual session but also have the ability to process issues that relate to sustainable development and to the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda in between formal sessions, within existing budgetary resources.

- 5) The preparation of the HLPF meetings needs to become more transparent and there must be a clearer mechanism for the involvement of member states, major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

In addition to establishing a well-functioning and credible monitoring, accountability and review mechanism, which we consider fundamental, there is **second** element that is crucial for successful implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda: that is national implementation.

All countries need to enter into concrete actions to implement the agenda. This is what universality is all about. Finland has always taken sustainable development very seriously. We have had a national commission for sustainable development since 1993, chaired by the prime minister. During the last two decades we have also designed and implemented several strategies for sustainable development. The most recent strategy – Finnish Society's Commitment for Sustainable Development – has a new approach and is based on engaging all interested actors in the promotion of sustainable development.

Mr/Madame Vice-President,

The resolution 67/290 also gives the HLPF several other tasks. Finland welcomes the discussions on the SAMOA Pathway and on the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production that took place last week. On issues like these, the HLPF should be able to show political leadership and give guidance, and dedicate enough time for deliberations.

With the Post-2015 Agenda, we have a historic opportunity in our hands. The HLPF has a critical role in realizing that opportunity. The current session provides a momentum for HLPF to discuss its role and functions in the global monitoring and review of the Post-2015 Agenda and to convey its messages also to the Post-2015 negotiations.

I thank you.