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The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

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نيويورك

**Statement by**

**H.E. Nabil Fahmy**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

**Before**

**The Inaugural Meeting**

**Of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**New York, 24 September 2013**

**Check against delivery**

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Mr. John Ashe, President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations...

Excellencies, Heads of states and governments

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Excellencies... Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to express my warm gratitude for participating in this historic meeting, celebrating a special occasion and a unique opportunity to pave the way for a better future for the coming generations. The establishment of the High-Level Political Forum, during the Rio Summit on Sustainable Development in June 2012, is a turning point in the agenda of international development within the framework of the United Nations, as it unequivocally renews the commitment of our leaders to achieve sustainable development for our peoples.

In this regard, Egypt welcomes the establishment of the High-Level Political Forum, and stresses the importance of its universal character, and for the Forum to build on the strengths of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and address its shortcomings. Egypt has played an active role in the discussions, deliberations and negotiations related to the Institutional Framework of Sustainable development (IFSD) especially during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), as well as after the Conference, in particular in negotiating the resolution establishing the HLPF on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Our meeting today marks the launch of the HLPF and sends an important message to the whole world. This high-level gathering confirms that sustainable development has become a pressing issue for policy makers at the highest levels and is no longer confined to the technical level. It is important that the Forum continues to attract high-level participation from the three areas of sustainable development, in an incremental fashion all along its work, and not just for its inaugural meeting. Its agenda should promote a more integrated discussion of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Egypt believes that the institutional framework for sustainable development as such should not be seen as an end in itself, but a mean to implement the objectives included in the Rio +20 outcome document, as well as in the outcomes of major UN summits and conferences, particularly the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium development goals.

Mr. President

The world has been witnessing deep changes since the beginning of the millennium and will continue to undergo them till 2030, and beyond. The time has come to put an end to poverty in all its forms within a unified structure for sustainable development, which should form the main thrust of all future activities.

Over the past periods, the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions was elusive in most regions of the world under the pressure of the challenges of poverty, unemployment, food and energy crises and financial crises, which were not caused by developing countries. Other challenges related to the unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change and biodiversity, undermined the ability of developing countries to achieve appropriate growth rates and the Millennium Development Goals as hoped for. In this regard, Egypt reaffirms the need to address all current, new and emerging challenges in a comprehensive and innovative manner based on a scientific approach.

As was reaffirmed in Rio+20 Conference, poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. As such, the HLPF should address sustainable development challenges from the prism of poverty eradication as its overarching objective. It should follow-up on the fulfillment of commitments, especially those related to the means of implementation: finance, technology and capacity building. The Forum should eventually follow up on the implementation of the outcome of Rio+20 Conference, and it should become a natural platform to follow-up on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the financing for sustainable development and the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Furthermore, the work of the Forum should be supported by a much stronger science-policy interface. The global report on sustainable development mandated in Rio+20 Conference will be critical in this regard.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time remaining till 2015 is limited. It is imperative that we make tough and critical decisions to build consensus around a new development

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framework to be implemented over the next two decades. International efforts must converge in the framework of the United Nations in order to reach a post-2015 UN development agenda. Egypt believes that the integration of these efforts together in one single framework will enable the international community to focus on a clear set of goals. However, the impact of these goals will rely on the ability to establish efficient mechanisms and measurable indicators to ensure the translation of these goals into reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new sustainable development goals should reflect a common vision for the future of the generations to come. They should reflect an agreed-upon commitment to a better life. Thus, these goals must be universal in nature, which implies that achieving them will rely on concerted efforts by all parties, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Achieving these goals will not be possible without the revival of the global partnership for development on the basis of real foundations and through concrete actions. A partnership which aims at ensuring policy coherence and mobilization of the necessary support and means of implementation. A partnership which contributes to finding solutions to issues of global and regional nature beyond the individual capacities of States. A partnership based on a well - defined mechanism for follow-up and accountability and that allows a significant and effective role for the private sector in order to support sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a challenge in today's world and in tomorrow's. The future we want is achievable, if there is political will and a true spirit of cooperation between all countries.

Thank you, Mr. President