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STATEMENT

BY

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BEFORE THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY **OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** STATEMENT ON "CONFLICT PREVENTION, POST-CONFLICT, PEACEBUILDING AND PROMOTION OF DURABLE PEACE, RULE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE"

NEW YORK, 7 FEBRUARY 2014

Co-Chairs,

At the outset, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation for all your professional and well-balanced facilitating role during the sessions of this Working Group. I also wish to thank the panelists for their insightful remarks as well as the UN's Technical Support Team for their informative issue briefs.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made earlier by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law respectively.

Co-Chairs,

The report of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has highlighted a number of key dimensions of the contribution of the rule of law to sustainable development as it is an engine for economic growth and an important condition for economic development.

Strong legal systems can foster domestic and foreign investment and contribute to lifting the lives of people out of poverty. Access to credible legal systems not only provides opportunities for justice but can also recognize and seek to address existing socio-economic disparities.

Institutions that uphold the rule of law, such as justice and security institutions have a significant role in promoting the discussions, which need to move away from institutions and processes to measuring rule of law outcomes.

Government agencies now collect diverse and comprehensive sources of data and the post-2015 development framework provides a unique opportunity to consolidate these national gains in a global framework.

Moreover, indicators on governance and rule of law should be cross-cutting and be able to measure socio-economic and other developmental aspects. In this regard, investing in data collection and the enhancement of the capacities of national statistical offices to collect and analyze data, as well as the reliability and quality of existing data sources is important in addressing rule of law and governance. Better governance is increasingly recognized as a key driver of development.

The sustainable development discourse has focused more on procedural aspects of governance rather than specific forms or outcomes.

Furthermore, governance mechanisms that can promote cooperation across sectors and institutions will be important to help address development challenges in an integrated manner.

Co-Chairs,

Peacekeeping and conflict prevention are key elements. Seeking out robust evidence of how to address drivers of conflict and violence which have been the main development constraint for nearly 1.5 billion people who live in conflict affected countries requires a new solution and response from governments and the international community as conflict creates challenges that have an impact on a regional and global scale. Peace is a key pillar to eradicate poverty and ensuring peace is critical to development. Peace is only established when rule of law is respected nationally and internationally especially in conflict zones.

The prioritization of capacity building in conflict-affected and fragile states, as well as enhancing international partnerships, knowledge-sharing and capacity development are all necessary for stabilization and development of these States.

Providing integrated responses linked to development policies, humanitarian relief and contributing to disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and State building are significant. For that reason, a holistic framework that commits to progress in all of the areas is vital for achieving our shared goals.

I thank you.