



B E L A R U S

S T A T E M E N T

by

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New York, 17 April 2013

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of constituency that includes the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Serbia.

Our delegations continue to consider Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as one of the most important conceptual instruments of the international community for implementation of the concept of sustainable development.

We believe that all UN Member States must continue implementation of MDGs with undiminishing energy in parallel with the process of shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Belarus and Serbia are convinced that **SDGs must ensue from, supplement and further develop the MDGs.**

In order to assure the SDGs's achievement, the process of elaboration of SDGs must be fully transparent with involvement of all interested states.

It is extremely important to ensure from the beginning that SDGs are **universal benchmarks** which are addressed to and accepted by all Member States.

At the same time realization of the sustainable development concept and, first of all, SDGs must not deepen the existing gap in development, must not preserve technological gap between the countries and must not limit national policies in the field of sustainable development, **in no way lead to establishing new dividing lines and barriers.**

Moreover, while ensuring the universal nature of SDGs we have to find a formula for implementation of the principle of **differentiated responsibility**. The formula must be carefully balanced and acceptable for all. In other terms we have to find the way how to differentiate the national contribution of each state to the global sustainable development. Practical solution of this dilemma can be found through introduction of **differentiated approach to the needs of groups of countries** facing specific developmental problems: least developed countries, small island states, land-locked developing countries, middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition.

Besides, it is important right now to reach consensus on the idea that SDGs should have a mechanism of measuring the progress made both at global and national levels. In this regard we believe a **relevant UN index might be useful as an instrument for measuring correlative progress of states**. This index might also be useful for the purposes of fair distribution of the international technical assistance. We propose as well **to introduce periodic national reviews of the progress made** in the achievement of SDGs without prejudice to the choice and implementation of national development strategies.

SDGs must be supported by **adequate and effective technical assistance**, including general consensus on the necessity to **provide an access for developing states, middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition to modern technologies**.

Global partnership for sustainable development must receive a new inspiration and unite at its platform the Member States, international organizations, private sector and civil society.

To coordinate the efforts of Global partnership for Sustainable Development and control SDGs implementation, the international community and in particular the UN system would need **a strong and effective body**. It is not necessary to create a new institution. These functions in our view could be effectively fulfilled by **ECOSOC**.

SDGs must be concise and clear with precise targets and indicators.

Each goal should have if possible an integrated clear connection to all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

SDGs should, first of all, address the most urgent **problems that mankind's survival depends on:**

- poverty eradication;
- food security;
- sustainable energy for all;
- efficient management of natural resources;
- water and sanitation;
- climate change and habitat degradation, including sustainable waste management;
- fighting diseases (healthcare);
- education.

In conclusion, Belarus and Serbia believe that the open working group's discussion must result in a clear formulation of the possible SDGs while at the same time creating an open space for dialogue on concrete targets. This dialogue should be further elaborated with support and guidance of the Secretariat. The Open working group on the other hand, should provide general political guidance in setting up the targets and provide options for collection of aggregated data to monitor the progress made in completion of SDGs.

Thank you.