



**Meeting of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals  
United Nations - New York - 17-19 April 2013**

**European Union and its Member States - Speaking Points on “poverty eradication”**

As noted earlier, the EU and its Member States are currently elaborating their position on the post-2015 agenda, including on SDGs. The following are therefore preliminary ideas.

- In general we believe it is important that our discussion today is consistent with the objectives of the September Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs. We can not have a separate conversation today from the one we plan in the September Special Event of the MDGs.
- Also, our discussion today needs to be coherent with the "conceptual" discussion we had in the first half of our meeting. There is no separate conversation on poverty eradication. Poverty eradication is at the heart of the work of the SDG OWG. Two of the most pressing challenges facing the world are eradicating poverty and ensuring that prosperity and well-being are sustainable at the same time.
- As Prof. Banerjee reminded us yesterday we need a change of paradigm, recognizing both that the global landscape has dramatically changed over the last decade and the multidimensional aspect of poverty. Differences between developing countries have increased. Emerging countries' growth has become an essential part of global growth. Several countries have become donors in their own right and key partners in the provision of global public goods. This is very important in our consideration of poverty eradication.
- On the other hand, in the run-up to 2015, and with less than 1000 days left, we are determined to increase our development impact and to make every effort to reach the MDGs. With developing countries in the lead, we must continue our common efforts towards this end. Indeed, preparing for post 2015 doesn't mean that we stop acting on our current priorities.
- The MDGs have made an enormous contribution in raising public awareness, increasing political will and mobilising resources for the fight to end poverty. This was mentioned yesterday several times and we fully agree. In the last 12 years, 600 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty. The MDGs deserve credit for this.
- Now we need to design an ambitious overarching post-2015 framework that uses the MDGs as a springboard towards making poverty a thing of the past, while ensuring that we remain within planetary boundaries. Our post-2015 framework must indeed build on the MDGs' successes, but also address their shortcomings.
- Substantial progress has been made overall, and particularly on the achievement of targets on the reduction of extreme poverty, provision of access to clean drinking water and significantly increasing primary school enrolment.
- However, the achievement of the MDGs continues to face considerable challenges, especially in conflict-affected and fragile regions, as well as in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). Many countries remain highly vulnerable to shocks and crises. In addition, success on the achievement of the MDGs has been unevenly distributed not only between countries but also within countries.
- As we noted yesterday, there is a fundamental link between ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future and we need collectively to reinforce this link in years ahead. We trust the deliberation of this Group can help us in this endeavour.