

8th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

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Remarks by Ambassador Martin Sajdik
on behalf of members of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law

Mr. Chair,

In my capacity as coordinator of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law, allow me to make a few remarks on behalf of the following participants of the Group: Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

It is beyond doubt that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. This has been made very clear by the international community on various occasions, but in particular with the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels which was adopted by consensus on 24 September 2012. With this declaration, member states declared that the rule of law and development were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforced the rule of law. Member states furthermore expressed their conviction that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda.

It is therefore no longer a question if, but only how the rule of law will be part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Credible and strong institutions which operate on the basis of laws and rules set up to serve the people play a particularly important role in this context. Moreover, addressing corruption is a key element as this is one of the major obstacles to sustainable development, diverting resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

To sum up, I would like to reiterate the importance that we, participants in the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law, attach to the rule of law being thoroughly discussed and duly considered in the process leading to the post-2015 development agenda.