

UN General Assembly
Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the
Post-2015 Development Agenda
Stocktaking Session

New Zealand statement

Delivered by H.E. Carolyn Schwalger,
Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

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Co-Chair

New Zealand looks forward to actively engaging in this inter-governmental process to establish a strong framework to achieve sustainable development over the coming fifteen years.

We made good progress last year, agreeing the goals that will form the basis of the post-2015 development agenda, and balancing economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The six essential elements proposed by the Secretary General in his *Synthesis Report* provide a useful way of framing these goals.

The challenge before us now is to set the **right** targets for each goal, choose indicators to measure progress against these targets and agree on how to monitor progress so we achieve sustainable development by 2030.

We will look to the UN system for expertise to help with the technical elements of this work. And we will look to each other to ensure our Leaders agree an ambitious, action-oriented development agenda in September which is owned by the international community.

In setting the post-2015 development agenda, we must pay attention to the particular needs of countries in special situations. Being conscious of vulnerability and fragility will enable us to address the unique needs of small island developing States and fragile and conflict-affected countries.

We must also consider the special situations of landlocked developing states, least developed countries and African countries.

The needs of the poor and the most vulnerable must be addressed, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, women and men, boys and girls. And we need to measure positive impacts on them using disaggregated data.

We have an agreed set of goals and a large number of targets. As the Secretary General points out, we need to take another look at these targets. Targets must be measurable. We must be able to establish indicators for each and have an existing means of collecting data in order

to measure progress. And there should not be so many that we cannot cope with required reporting.

Goal seven on energy provides a good starting point. It has three simple targets that can be tracked at the global level. Each country is able to set their own energy targets according to their national circumstances. The challenge will be choosing indicators that can be tracked using readily available data.

Goal 14 on oceans, a central priority for my Government, is a good example of a highly technical area which requires specialist input. Agencies such as the FAO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, as well as the Division of Oceans and Law of the Sea should be involved.

The test for New Zealand is whether we and our Pacific neighbours have an existing means to collecting data and can use it to report on progress. If we cannot, or if the reporting burden is too great, then we will have chosen the wrong indicators or established too many targets.

This is highly technical work and we look to the United Nations System to provide expert advice on it. Our own experts stand ready to assist them.

Co-chairs

You can count on our support as, together, we establish an ambitious and action-oriented post-2015 development agenda.