



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru
to the United Nations*

**Statement to be delivered by H.E. Ambassador Moses, Permanent Representative of
Nauru, on the SDG Indicators for Post-2015 Agenda
27 March, 2015**

Co-Chairs,

At the outset allow me to commend you on the work that you have done to lead this process.

Nauru associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of South Africa on behalf of the Group 77 and China, Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and Tonga on behalf of the Pacific SIDS.

Nauru reiterates its position that we should not be discussing the tweaking of the targets through the need to improve upon the package. Nauru also further underscores the delicate political balance that we have with the report of the OWG -SDGs and is not in a position to consider any re-opening or re-packing of the package.

Having stated our position, we have been listening to other delegations this past week and note the request of the UN Statistical Commission on the need for more time to develop a possible set of global indicators by March 2016 and we look forward to being given adequate time for proper reflection on the matter.

Co-Chairs,

My objective is to provide some political guidance to this process and voice my delegation's concerns regarding the work of the UN Statistical Commission on global indicators. My delegation proposes the following:

The global indicators should be universal and leave no State behind. Let me elaborate the significance of this for my delegation. Nauru is by far the smallest member of the United Nations family. We have a population of about 10,000 people. When global

indicators for the post 2015 agenda are adopted, we need to ensure that Nauru is counted in the enumeration package of global indicators be they quantitative or qualitative in nature. Having said this, I am aware that this may require a data revolution to accommodate our needs and we would be fully supportive of this.

Co-Chairs,

Allow me to share my delegation's experience with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The international community adopted the Declaration in 2000, it took my country and National Statistics Office about eleven years to integrate the MDGs into our national sustainable development strategy and provide the first national progress report respectively. This is important to consider with the issue of timing with the adoption of global indicators, the support small countries will need, and its implementation. We need to take into account the national circumstances and the time within which we expect all countries to be able to report on these global indicators.

Co-chairs

On the creation of the indicators, we will need to ensure that the critical issues which we agreed to at the OWG are reflected in the indicators. To give a concrete example from the Ocean SDG, we have examined the indicators which have been shared by the Statistical Commission, and we note with concern that despite the inclusion in the targets for the need to combat IUU fishing, there is no indicator on this issue or on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance.

Finally on matter of indicators, we note that more time is required to discuss the issues of indicators for this process, however, we should caution against the danger that if we repeat the same arguments here, we run the risk of not launching the SDGs and not completing our work.

We are mindful that we did not provide much of the parameters and guidelines for the technicians to do their work. One example is to consider the applicability of the proposed indicators and weigh it against their suitability/relevance as global, regional and national level indicators. I believe that the UN Statistical Commission will continue to require political guidance as we move forward. In this regard we would suggest that we have interim discussions with Commission.

My final point is on the issue of themes. My delegation fully supports the proposals made by AOSIS, and further underlines the need for healthy, resilient and productive oceans and sea. The effect of healthy ocean and seas on all three dimensions of sustainable development was a key driver behind Nauru's position in favor of a standalone goal on oceans and, like many others who have spoken to this, would welcome a place of high prominence on oceans in the thematic dialogues.

Let me assure you of my delegations support and continued engagement in this process.

I thank you.

