

MR. Sana Maboneza
1st Counsellor

RWANDA

Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking you on behalf of the African group for convening the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development.

This session is held at a historical juncture, as the international community continues its work to conclude negotiations on the outcome document of the third international conference on financing for development and the post 2015 development agenda. These processes will define the structure of international cooperation for the next 15 years, and the HLPF will be at the center of it.

The forum's role in following up and reviewing progress in the implementation of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation will be crucial in ensuring the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda. This forum will also provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development and; enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels.

Mr. President

The HLPF needs to deliver on its core functions by discussing concrete aspects of the follow-up and review for the post-2015, including comprehensive discussions on how it can fulfill its mandate set out in OP 8 of A/RES/67/290. However, this can only be achieved by addressing the authority deficit that the forum currently suffers from, but also by providing space to lay out the principles of follow up and review at the global level, and to provide guidance to both regional and national levels.

Specifically, the African Group believes that the follow up and review at the global level should be designed around the following principles:

- It should be universal in scope and should be owned by each country in accordance with its national circumstances, needs and priorities.
- It must be government-led and voluntary, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants.
- The review should also aim to review the activities of the UN system and stakeholders with regards to the SDGs and their means of implementation.
- The follow up and review should encompass all the 17 SDGs and 169 targets in a balanced and integrated manner, including Goal 17 and

MoI-specific targets at the international level. The balance and integration of the framework of goals should be preserved, while recognizing the priority for the implementation of Goal 17 and MoI-specific targets under other goals, given their cross-cutting nature and importance for the implementation of the entire framework of Goals.

- It should assess the results of the technology facilitation mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs and its efforts to promote and transfer of technology to developing countries.
- The follow-up and review should be conducted in a constructive spirit in order to foster positive mutual learning and cooperation, based on long-term orientation and incentives such as sharing lessons learned and experiences, necessary means of implementation, take into account capacity-building and financing needs, facilitate access to technology and other support to be provided by a wide range of actors in a complementary manner to the support provided by developed countries.
- The follow-up and review process should strengthen the follow up and review of the commitments at the international level. In this regard differentiated approach should underpin this undertaking to ensure

focus, in particular, on the MOI provided for the attainment of the SDGs. In this regard we stress that the universality of SDGs should enhance consistency with the principle of CBDR with a view to recognizing different national realities, capacities and levels of development while also emphasizing the importance of national policy space.

- We reiterate our view that, follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs framework at national level should be determined by national governments in accordance with national circumstances and level of development including the participation of all relevant stakeholders such as civil society, social actors and the UN development system, in accordance with national legislations.
- The envisioned undertaking should ensure coherence between the national, regional and global level.
- The basis for the follow-up and review of qualitative national information on sustainable development policies at all levels should be robust data drawn from national progress reports. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible, recognizing the urgent need for transfer of financial

resources, technologies and capacity building for developing countries in accordance with national priorities and strategies.

Mr. President

Allow me to highlight that with regards to process, the Group supports more engagement on part of member states in the preparatory process for the HLPF agenda to ensure transparency. We also request that the program of the forum should be designed in a more balanced manner that ensures discussions on issues that are of utter importance to the developing countries, such as capacity building, methods of work of the forum and the technology facilitation mechanism.

In conclusion **Mr. President**, we trust that the summaries of the High-level segment and the high-level political forum reflect the discussions and points raised by all delegations in a balanced manner.

Thank you