

Statement on behalf of Romania and Poland

- as delivered on 19 July 2014, 1.30 PM -

Let me first commend both of you, co-chairs, on behalf of Poland and Romania, for the able leadership, strenuous efforts and unshaken engagement to work around the clock to lead us to this point, a historical point I would put it, when we have in front of us the fruits of our work for one year and a half. Far from being ideal, we understand that it reflects a very delicate balance among so many different points of view. Our sincere gratitude also goes to all colleagues for their tireless efforts and flexibility all along this process. I particularly like the appreciation of the Indonesian colleague, if I recall correctly, that this was a Herculean effort and urge not to transform it into a Sisyphus work, condemned to ceaselessly roll a rock to the top of the mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight.

We didn't want to take the floor in the beginning, not wanting to contribute to the mental distress and physical pain we all are going through. But hearing the various opinions expressed in the room and proposals to amend the language, our team feels obligated to emphasize that this exercise in this format exhausted its means and we are ready to continue to work, on the basis on this outcome, without brackets or options, with colleagues to bring this to the next level, at the GA level, even if it does not reflect all our priorities and concerns. We would have favoured stronger language in goal 16, where many of the issues listed by us, that are top priorities for our governments, didn't find their place in the document, the balance and integration of the means of implementation is far from ideal, things that clearly belong the one single goal being still spread out across the document, the CC goal could have been better articulated and the list can go on. But we understand that we all must make sacrifices.

Let me again re-emphasize that all goals stand on the same footing as we agreed to part from the principle that there is no prioritization or conditionality among SD goals and they are equally important. All these goals are development outcomes and the national governments will decide how to meet them.

To draw the line, co-chair, the text before us is not up for reopening and we strongly support its adoption.