



Second meeting of intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda

Declaration

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

New York, Tuesday, 18 February 2015

Co-Facilitators,

First of all we would like to thank you for the good elements paper on the declaration as well as your guiding questions, which are a sound basis to structure our discussions.

Switzerland supports your general call for an inspiring, short and ambitious declaration that spells out a compelling vision for a sustainable future without poverty.

The declaration should reaffirm the principles enshrined in the **UN charter** as well as reinforce and make **strong reference to human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights** which give the agenda the necessary legitimacy. The declaration should also recall all Rio principles, the Millennium Declaration and the Rio+20 Outcome Document and reiterate the importance of **rule of law and good governance** for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Co-Facilitators

You asked us what we mean by transformative?



We all know that business as usual is not an option if we want to achieve sustainable development and a world without poverty. The following elements are critical for a **transformative shift** to set our planet on a sustainable development path. They should be firmly anchored in the declaration.

- A first element is a strong integration of the **environmental dimension**. The Declaration should recall the concept of Planetary Boundaries as they provide the safe operating space for humanity and recognize the importance of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. We depend on a healthy, reliable and resilient environment. The Elements paper is too weak in this respect.
- A second element is to ensure that **no one is left behind**. Equality, social inclusion and justice should be fundamental principles underpinning the entire goal framework and appear explicitly in the Declaration. Particular attention needs to be paid to inequalities faced by **women**, children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups. **Gender inequality** is the most widespread form of inequality and a major obstacle to sustainable development.

In this context, moving away from national averages and towards a much greater **disaggregation of data** will play a crucial role to ensure that our efforts to tackle inequalities are successful.

- A third element of the mentioned transformative shift is the **universality** of the Post-2015 Agenda. Increasing interdependence among countries and the important global challenges that faces our generation demands a universal framework for Sustainable Development. This means that every country contributes to the achievement of



global goals according to national circumstances.

In order to spur action, we need a renewed global partnership based on solidarity and shared responsibility. While every country is responsible for its own sustainable development, international cooperation will be needed to help those countries that do not have the capacities to achieve the goals on their own. This **renewed global partnership** has to ensure that **all relevant stakeholders**, including private sector, civil society and academia can and will assume their respective roles and responsibilities in a meaningful way, in order to contribute to the implementation of the agenda at all levels. We therefore call for strong language on the universality of the agenda and the spirit of a renewed inclusive Global Partnership in the Declaration.

- A fourth and final transformative element of the Post-2015 Agenda is its focus to tackle **root causes** of poverty, insecurity and unsustainable development. In this context, improved policy coherence for sustainable development is needed at national, regional and international levels.

To emphasize the transformative nature of the shift we strive for, we should start to speak of the Post-2015 **Sustainable** Development Agenda in the Declaration.

Co-Facilitators

The Declaration should highlight the importance of a universal monitoring, follow-up and review framework at all levels and thereby promoting



accountability. A robust, innovative and efficient mechanism for **monitoring and reviewing progress** is essential for the effective implementation of the SDGs. A respective mechanism should be inclusive and participatory, transparent, manageable and promote peer learning as well as the exchange of best practices. New scientific evidence should also feed into the review process.

The Declaration should also specify a **commitment by countries** to monitor, report, evaluate and review progress at regular intervals towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The mandate of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) should be reaffirmed in the Declaration: Under the auspices of the ECOSOC, the HLPF shall review on a regular basis progress made by countries and globally in implementing the provisions of the Post-2015 Agenda. These reviews should feed into the high-level review and stocktaking at the meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the GA every four years. The global review should build on the work of national, regional and thematic monitoring and review mechanisms.

Co-Facilitators

Regarding the UN's role in the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, Switzerland believes that our collective efforts in making the UN "fit for purpose" require a deep analysis. Some fundamental issues, such as the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the UN development system, partnership ap-



proaches and organizational arrangements will have to be analyzed and discussed. Given the complexity of the topic, Switzerland believes that **Heads of States should use the Post-2015 Agenda to send a strong call to the UN System, requesting an in-depth review** of how the different entities can contribute to the realization of the SDGs. Such a review should identify gaps, as well as make recommendations on how the existing mandates might have to be adjusted in order to ensure that the entities can collectively deliver on the new agenda. The ongoing dialogue within ECOSOC (mandated by Member States) is useful in providing a first structured exchange on these important questions.