

Intergovernmental negotiations on the on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Declaration session

New York, 17 –20 February 2015.

Tuesday, 17 February 2015, the Declaration

Distinguished co-facilitators,

Croatia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union yesterday, and I would like to add the following in my national capacity:

Allow me to start by thanking the Co-facilitators for producing the elements paper and posing essential questions we need to answer in order to have a “Declaration We Want”. We share the common view that the Declaration should be ambitious, visionary and formulated in a concise and self-explanatory way.

It is important that peoples and individuals are able to recognize the strong political will and determination behind this Declaration and to identify themselves with an ambitious vision of common future. The declaration should be a common vow of our readiness to eradicate extreme poverty and to build up a better world where no one is left behind.

The declaration needs to be an effective answer to fundamental challenges and threats the world faces today. We should be well aware of the complexity of poverty reduction and sustainable development in all its interconnected spheres: social, economic and environmental. Therefore, the complexity of challenges requires a truly global, universal, and transformative agenda which is committed to achieve sustainable development goals.

It is of crucial importance that the agenda is founded on a rights-based approach embracing all human rights, combating all forms of discrimination, including gender inequality and gender based violence, and that it promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and democratic governance. These are the core values which deserve to be properly reflected in the Declaration along with other universal values such as solidarity, dignity, equality, empowerment and respect for the environment.

As many speakers have already said it is important to recognize and address the interdependence between security and development. It is well known that there is no security if there is no development and there is no development if there is no security.

Based on our own relatively recent experience - my country passed through a demanding process of post-conflict social and economic reconstruction - we recognize and support global quest for assurance of non-violent societies, which will be based on full respect of rule of law, human rights and good governance.

Croatia shares the view that we need a global partnership and the necessary means of implementation for the agenda. A new global partnership for sustainable development should be based on the guiding principles of universality, shared responsibility, consideration of respective capabilities, and mutual accountability. Here, national ownership and accountability are of key importance. In overall achievement of economic and social development other actors, from the civil society and the private sector, also need to be involved to the fullest extent possible.

This is why we believe that the declaration needs to send a clear, univocal message, a call for action by all stakeholders.

Thank you.