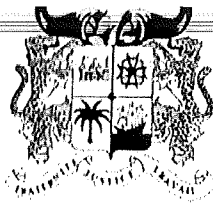


*Mission Permanente  
de la République du Bénin  
auprès des Nations Unies*



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

**SIXTY NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Informal meetings of the plenary on the process of intergovernmental negotiations  
on  
the post-2015 development agenda**

**STATEMENT  
BY**

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AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

**NEW YORK, 17-20 February 2015**

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The Group of LDCs associates itself with the Statement made by the Representative of South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China and would like to make the following complementary remarks:

The LDCs would like to thank the Co-Facilitators for their inspiring leadership and for the very thoughtful elements shared with the Member states for the preparation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The points highlighted in the elements cover to a large extent the issues raised in our statements and analysis during the stocktaking session held from 19 to 21 January 2015.

2015 should mark a turning point in the history of mankind and the planet. Having assessed the numerous challenges facing the biosphere, we are called mobilize all our strength and our resources to secure a viable future for all and thus to give a real meaning to our common humanity.

The Group adheres to the idea of having a Declaration that is concise, visionary, ambitious, actionable, and communicable and simple, which is action oriented and understandable by all. We would like to recall that our collective vision for 2030 is the eradication of poverty and the undertaking of decisive action to counter the multi-dimensional challenges posed by climate change and environment degradation, iterative economic crisis and social crisis, widening inequalities.

The Declaration should communicate the sense of urgency as to the need to address the numerous existential challenges identified in such a way to ensure the survival of Humanity by securing for every one on earth affordable access to the goods of modernity. As we look forward to the world of 2030, and envision the path leading to future we want, we understand the historical mission that we are tasked with to shape it and to achieve it.

The realization of our vision of securing sustainable development by ensuring a balanced consideration of its three major dimensions requires that, in our universal approach to the challenges, we take into account the specificities and realities of each country in particular that we pay due attention to the situation of the most vulnerable countries, namely the LDCs, because most of them were unable to achieve the MDGs. They stand ready to engage in multi- stakeholder partnerships to implement the new development agenda with the needed paradigm shifts

In that sense, the Declaration should reaffirm our resolve to take resolute action collectively as the international community and individually as nation, in order to correct the discrepancies that are challenging our future and to pursue steadfastly the transformative goals that we set for the next fifteen years.

As regards our Group, being at the bottom of the ladder of the development scale, and standing to gain from the higher awareness of common humanity with the highest possible ambition

in this field, we consider that the Declaration should emphasize the principle of leaving no one behind.

We should reiterate our strong belief in our capacity to achieve all efforts leading to the total and irreversible eradication of poverty on earth in our generation with the aim of shaping a world driven by equity and respect for and the realization of the right of all people to exist and to access a shared prosperity while enjoying with a renewed sense of frugality, the benefactions of modernity in a way of life securing each individual a fair access to the basic services for the full realization of its potentials with a keen sense of responsibility towards the environment in the framework of a stable and efficient global economic and financial system and of peaceful and just societies. The Declaration should incorporate strong language on a robust framework of resilience building. The world has experienced many crises and shocks over the past 15 years as a result of weaknesses in the global financial system, fiscal constraints, commodity shortages, climate change, and other factors. There is considerable evidence that in the coming decades such events will be more frequent and destructive.

The Declaration should reaffirm the basic principles of the United Nations Charter as well as the Principle proclaimed in the Declaration of Rio and in particular the principle 6 that specified that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority, while addressing the interests and needs of all countries.

The Declaration should also reaffirm the Principle 7 of Rio in particular as regard the assertion that the States have common but differentiated responsibilities which is the basis for the principle of preferential and differential treatment of LDCs which should guide the implementation of the Post -2015 development agenda.

The Group suggests that the Declaration articulate clearly the need to provide global support to the LDCs through a substantive increase of their share in ODA and of the strengthening of their voice and representation through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms in the institutions of the global governance. In the same move, we should stress the importance of national ownership and the need of effective national policies, extended domestic resource mobilization and enhanced global multidimensional supportive environment and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda.

**The Group reiterated the need to make a clear reference to the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Declaration with its overarching goal to halve the number of LDCs by 2020 and the logical prospect for the Post 2015 development agenda to end this category by 2030 by integrating a clearly articulated zero target.** Special needs and development priorities of LDCs, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The 48 LDCs will be the battleground and the litmus test for the success and failure of the post-2015 Development Agenda. No goals should be considered as achieved unless it is for all.

The Group reiterate its support to the SDSs and targets adopted by the General Assembly and considers that the Declaration should make clear reference to them as the backbone of the Post2015 Development Agenda and affirm their inclusive nature while recognizing the overarching nature of the principal elements offered by the Secretary General in his synthesis report on which we stand ready to have further discussions of the course of this session and the sessions to come.

It goes without saying that the progress achieved in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals offers sound fundament on which we should build and further the objectives of the Post -2015 Agenda while avoiding to be haunted by their limited scope and the discrepancies that hampered their full achievement, with regard to the pronounced differentiation of countries and the need for national leadership and policy space to elaborate and implement relevant national and regional strategies for sustainable development. In this spirit, we agree that the implementation of the post 2015 Development Agenda should aim at bringing to completion the unfinished business of the MDGs as a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty, in particular extreme poverty. There should be a seamless connection between the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**The Declaration should assert our resolve to achieve a world free from hunger and to realize the right to food for all people as a basic parameter for poverty eradication through a transformative shift to sustainable agriculture, and sustainable food systems that are resilient, diverse, reducing waists to the minimum possible, securing access to water and sanitation, and thus contributing to the maintenance and improvement of rural and urban ecosystems.** As we know, this requires, in particular a strong focus on enhancing the productivity of small scale producers, the achievement of land - degradation -neutral growth and equitable multilateral trade systems and markets that promote rural development and food security. To this purpose we should give due consideration to the implementation of the Committee on world food security Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests as well as the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food systems.

**We should commit also to provide for the well –being of the children, the youth, the women of all age and the elderly and the disabled and to ensure gender equality and the full respect of all human rights. The Declaration should reaffirm critical existing commitments towards those vulnerable age groups.**

Our commitments should be backed by sound and reliable accountability frameworks to allow for a steadfast follow-up and review of achievements in order to promote an efficient cooperation towards the overarching goals of the Programme. The Declaration should stress the importance of global indicators providing orientations for national benchmarks of performance to be determined by each country.

I thank you for your kind attention.