



नेपाल NEPAL

**Remarks by His Excellency Durga P. Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of
Nepal to the United Nations, at the third session of the Informal meeting of the
UNGA plenary in the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015
development agenda, focusing on sustainable development goals and targets**

New York, 24 March 2015

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Distinguished Co-facilitators,

It is reassuring to see you (Amb. Macharia Kamau of Kenya) and your co-facilitator (Amb. David Donoghue of Ireland) so ably facilitating this important meeting. My delegation appreciates your diligent efforts and has full confidence in your experience and wisdom to steer this inter-governmental process towards a fruitful conclusion. I also thank the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, and other distinguished experts for their respective presentations yesterday.

Nepal aligns itself with the statements of the Groups of 77 and China, LDCs, and LLDCs; and I wish to make a few remarks from my national perspective.

Co-facilitators,

Sustainable Development Goals and targets lie at the heart of the new development agenda. Nepal supports the integration of the outcome of the OWG-SDGs in its entirety, including the chapeau, into the post-2015 development agenda.

For the realization of the goals and targets therein, Nepal believes that the declaration of the agenda should set the requisite tone, and the means of implementation and global partnerships should ensure a smooth implementation of the agenda.

While the outcome of the Financing for Development Conference should compensate the deficiency of the OWG-SDG's outcome in connection with the means of implementation, Nepal believes any reopening of the goals and targets package puts at risk the delicate political balance the OWG's outcome has been able to achieve. There would really be no incentive in reopening what we closed with sufficient satisfaction following over 17 months of arduous inter-governmental exercise involving active and meaningful participation of the States members as well as the major groups and other stakeholders.

Co-facilitators,

It is now time for us to take up the question of the follow up and review so as to provide the bases of measuring the progress in implementation. We should be able to identify

and develop the indicators with which to measure the progress at the national, regional and global levels. The results should be easily comparable across nations and regions and integrated at the global level. A continuing oversight mechanism to monitor the implementation may also be envisaged at this stage.

Due to its highly technical nature, the task of developing global indicators is best carried out by the UN Statistical Commission, in close consultation with the Member States. In the process of developing indicators, the question of data becomes crucial. The data used for this purpose and their sources should be transparent. Nepal welcomes the concept of setting up an inclusive and representative inter-agency and expert group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and underscores the importance of having the national statistical authorities on board at all times.

Data dearth and capacity deficit at the national level pose a major challenge in ensuring the availability of quality data and their universal application in case of the developing countries. More specifically, the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS need to be provided with the necessary capacity-building and technical support in order to develop their own national indicators. In fact, their national capacity building should constitute a long term strategy in this connection.

Likewise, the indicators should be such that measure the progress and also enable us to identify the gaps to be addressed, in real time as far as possible and on a continuing basis.

It is important that the indicators are few, simple, flexible, easily communicated, and yet able to capture the essence and ambition of the SDGs and targets without compromising their sanctity. However, this should be the end result, and not a starting point of the process. The starting point should be to have enough indicators, of course avoiding duplication and overlap and making use of the cross-relevance and inter-linkages they may have vis-à-vis goals and targets. A mechanism should be found to integrate those very many indicators at different levels in such a way that they can be related to each of the targets and goals to present their individual as well as composite progress in simple aggregate expressions reflecting accomplishments at national, regional and global levels, and across themes.

Co-facilitators,

We are aware that this may be easier said than done. More so, when you compile all the attributes the delegations have wished to attach to the indicators yesterday and today. This should be possible with the best of talents we have with the statistical commission and elsewhere committed to making the most efficient use of the time available for the purpose. However, we heard that the Statistical Commission intends to finish the job only in the first quarter of 2016.

I wish to share a word of caution here. We have seen how development decades or their parts have been lost in the past. Lag in implementation as a result of delayed conclusion of the package of requisite instruments or their integration into national mechanisms have been a major factor in this regard. We must realize that it takes a while for us to integrate into the national level mechanisms what we agree at the global level for implementation. The post-2015 development agenda officially begins on the first day of 2016, for which the SDGs and the PTDA need to be adopted by our heads of state and government in the UN Summit in September 2015 so that we can take the packages to our countries for integration and implementation. The package must not be short of indicators.

Co-facilitators,

I wish to conclude by reminding ourselves that we do not have the luxury of time for any back and forth game since we have a long way to go before we conclude our substantive business in July so that the Goals, Targets and at least the framework indicators could be adopted in September. However, the momentum should not be lost at any time until the full development of indicators. Our efforts henceforth should be focused on developing, in an inclusive and participative manner, a sophisticated architecture of scientific indicators to measure the progress we make in implementing the goals and targets already in place. I assure you of the continued support of my delegation in all your sincere efforts towards that end.

I thank you, distinguished Co-facilitator.