

## Steve Lalande from Seychelles– Representing International Forum of Platforms

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The SDG is an important framework which will guide development efforts of governments and development organisations across the world. Undeniable, some progress has been made towards the MDGs, but the global situation has profoundly evolved, characterised by geopolitical turmoil; food, social, economic, financial and environmental crises; and growing urbanisation. Therefore the SDGs should not just be about the unfinished agenda of the MDGs but it is fitting that it aims higher through several goals and targets that are comprehensive in nature and create obligations for all States.

The MDGs provided an opportunity to assess the unprecedented escalation of inequalities among states and also within societies. As a result, the battle to eradicate poverty across the globe must be intensified. To find innovative methods to combat poverty in all its forms, it is recommended that States strengthen collaborative approaches through the various regional and international mechanisms.

With all the turmoil happening in the world right now, peace and security are of major concern for the citizens, especially those living in hotspots. Sustainable development cannot take root in environments encompassing crisis and war. The citizens of the world are calling for nations to pursue sustainable peace with more vigour and through more effectively coordinated approaches. The quest for world peace has to be tackled at various levels, whether it's through strengthening, governance, democracy and the human rights systems within states, strengthening the rule of law, conflict prevention and resolution, using regional mechanisms more effectively or going further, to the more inclusive reform of the UN Security Council.

A development model based on over-exploitation of natural resources, the pollution of the earth's waters, seas and oceans, of our soil and of our air, has caused devastating effects on our environment and in particular on the people of the global South. This is why it is necessary to rethink and review the development paradigm so that it is not only related to the idea of economic growth but also balanced with an approach combining sustainable development, eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities. IFP calls for States to commit to a holistic and inclusive human rights-based development approach. Accountability mechanisms where States are accountable for the consequences of their actions need to be strengthened.

The SDG is another opportunity to renew the commitment for the fight against climate change. The impact of climate change has never been more visible than the recent devastating environmental events across the globe which has caused damages to physical assets, worsened the food crisis, forced migration and displacement and caused breakdown of economies. There continues to be an increase in the sea level rise. The irresponsible slowing down of climate negotiations needs to be urgently reversed. Investment in renewable energy so that it gradually replaces fossil fuels and provide access to clean and renewable energy for people living in poverty must be intensified. There is a call for wealthier nations to live up to the existing agreements in terms of climate change financing and lead the way in non-carbon development within their societies.

The earth contains more water than land mass. The oceans are important spaces for sustainable development, therefore SDG goal 14 which states: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" makes a lot of sense. For this goal, the development of the "blue economy" concept being pioneered by Small Islands Developing States

including Seychelles is a good example of a blue print for sustainable use of the ocean. It is recommended that this area of development be intergrated into SDG action plans and targets.

There is a real risk that commitments made without effective monitoring and accountability may remain empty promises. Accountability standards and mechanisms that are inclusive are required for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. Seychelles, one of the developing countries that has been identified as having met most of the MDGs is where I sat on the national MDG steering committee that brought together the various sectors. The committee proved useful in synergising efforts of the country's development actors. Governments must be accountable to its citizens and therefore it is recommended that in the SDG implementation, a national SDG committee made up of government, private sector and civil society representatives be established in each country. In fact I strongly believe that public policy or legal frameworks should exist to make this happen.

Finally Mr Chairman, in support of making the implementation of the SDGs a success, we also advocate for a sustainability index which will make the measurability of the monitoring and assessment processes more effective.