



**Intervention by H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka at the Sixth Session (the session on the zero draft) of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda**

**22 June 2015**

Distinguished co-facilitators,

At the outset, let me thank you for convening this session on the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I wish to thank you, the co-facilitators, for your hard work in making available the zero draft of the post-2015 development agenda in a timely manner. This has immensely facilitated our coordination on the text and preparations for this meeting.

We believe that this zero draft has in general, captured the essence of the representations made by the developing countries in the negotiations held during the past few months. Therefore, it provides a good basis for our deliberations henceforth, in the run-up to the Summit in September. Yet, the draft has to be further improved, with the political guidance of Member States, to reflect their aspirations on the global development agenda beyond 2015. We need to deliberate on the text with a view to making it an agenda that would safeguard the interests of all developing countries.

It is encouraging to note that the draft declaration of the agenda has turned out to be a simple yet a strong and visionary document. We are happy to note that eradication of poverty has been featured as the overarching priority of the whole agenda by identifying in the declaration poverty eradication as the greatest challenge faced by humankind. The declaration also recognizes the ground realities of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, which the world could take as a lesson to make the post-2015 development agenda a success story.

We are equally encouraged by the references to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular that of the common but differentiated responsibilities. It is our fervent hope that these core principles will continue to guide the new global development agenda.

However, we note with some concern the interpretation given to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities with reference to climate change issues, where the draft declaration refers to the historic responsibility of all states. It should be noted in this context that the primary responsibility of global greenhouse gas emissions lies with the developed nations. It is imperative that we endeavor to correct such interpretations as we proceed with the negotiations on the text.

While the draft declaration constitutes a strong and visionary precursor to the post-2015 development agenda, the draft preamble of the zero draft seems to add no value to the document. Firstly, the opening paragraph of the preamble is repeated elsewhere in the draft declaration. Secondly, the listing of the goals in the preamble seems to have been done in a selective manner. The basis for this selection is not clear. We are

of the view that since the preamble does not seem to add any value to the document, it could be done away with.

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

It is heartening to observe that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets have been included in the zero draft in their entirety responding to our contention that they would constitute the core of the post-2015 development agenda.

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets are an outcome produced after a lengthy and arduous process of intergovernmental negotiations. Therefore it must rightly constitute the core of the agenda.

We have right through out been calling for the inclusion of the chapeau of the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in the zero draft of the Agenda. The chapeau of the report is inextricably connected with the Goals and Targets and therefore should constitute a part of the zero draft.

We are also of the view that any attempt to 'technical proof' the targets might put in danger the delicate political balance achieved in the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Means of Implementation, both financial and technological, are crucial for the success of the post 2015 development agenda. Accordingly, we welcome the inclusion of the

goal specific- means of implementation as agreed in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in the zero draft. These goal-specific means of implementation must not be seen as a mere placeholder. They are a solid basis for engagement.

The Addis Ababa process can feed to the Means of Implementation discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference should not replace these goal-specific means of implementation but rather complement them.

Similarly, we believe that technology must be an integral part of the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. If one is to expect perceptible results, a vigorous technology facilitation mechanism must constitute the core of the means of implementation of the Agenda.

Therefore, we welcome the inclusion of the 'food for thought paper on a possible technology facilitation mechanism' as an annex to the zero draft. We believe that this paper could serve as the foundation for the establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

And finally, Distinguished Co-facilitators,

The responsibility of the follow-up and review of the development agenda at the national level lies entirely with the Member States according to their national circumstances, needs and priorities.

Therefore, it would not be advisable for the zero draft to be over prescriptive on how the governments should conduct follow-up and review. Such measures are best left to governments. We must keep this in our mind as we proceed with our deliberations.

I thank you.