

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA ON HLPF PROGRAMME ITEM: “Regional support to national action” - TUESDAY 30 JUNE Afternoon Session:

Speaking in our national capacity, not as G77, please allow our delegation to express our appreciation for the valuable inputs from the panel members. Please also allow us to express a few thoughts on the regional level, perhaps for the panel members to comment on some of it.

Efficient and effective regional mechanisms and processes are crucial for the implementation, follow-up and review of a truly transformative post-2015 development agenda, including the 17 SDGs, in the African Continent in an integrated and balanced manner. Well-managed regional processes, programmes and institutions also offer opportunities to reinforce international cooperation under a revitalized Global Partnership for Development, and promote more integrated institutional arrangements for regional participation, including broad participation by major groups and civil society at large.

The newly-constituted Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2 weeks ago in Addis Ababa agreed on Africa’s key messages to HLPF 2015 on most of the issues being addressed in this year’s HLPF, including the role of regional bodies. Mr Mayacine Camara, of Senegal, the Chair of the African Regional Forum, last Friday during the first panel discussion highlighted some of the outcomes. The complete outcome document has now been made available on the HLPF website, after a small technical glitch.

The African Union Summit in Johannesburg 2 weeks ago adopted the first Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the AU Agenda 2063 (“the future we want for Africa”). Agenda 2063 is a logical and natural continuation of NEPAD and other continental initiatives and will put in place a results-based approach with concrete targets that are measurable and can be tracked and monitored. It is also guided by the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity at national, sub-regional and continental levels.

It will also build on national, regional and global efforts made to implement NEPAD, including its APRM. Ambassador Rashid eloquently explained the Mechanism and its possible roles in implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs. Our delegation just want to add that the Mechanism also meets the criteria identified in the Secretary-General’s report on the post-2015 development agenda, and could be expanded to support the implementation of the SDGs, to assist individual country reviews in Africa, in the context of HLPF processes that may be led by regional institutions.

The SDGs are ambitious, comprehensive and wide-ranging, but can also add to the national burden in reporting on international obligations. Therefore, resource requirements, cost implications and data quality and continuity must be given due consideration at a regional level. At the outset, new and additional resources should be identified to support the needed data collection, compilation and dissemination relevant to the 17 SDGs. Many countries in Africa will continue to need assistance in improving their statistical systems. The international community should significantly scale up support to countries and national statistics offices with critical needs for capacities to produce, collect, disaggregate, analyze and share the data crucial to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The envisaged “data revolution for sustainable development” should also be geared towards delivering on this requirement.

The first Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063 will address, among others, illicit financial flows, natural resource rent maximization and regional capital market development. One issue also

and comprehensively. In this regard, developed countries need to step up efforts on disclosure standards. It is estimated that about 60% of capital flight from Africa is from improper transfer pricing. This, among other issues, calls for stronger support from the international community, including the UN system, to the African Continent as a region, to tackle issues that stand in the way of implementing an ambitious post-2015 development agenda for the people of Africa, especially the poor and vulnerable.