

**South African statement during HLPF Ministerial Segment Wednesday 8 July on session: “Reviewing and monitoring progress: What have we learned and how can it advance implementation”**

Mr Moderator, in considering the future work of the HLPF with regard to the post 2015 development agenda, it is crucial not to “over-interpret” what we are all engaged in to a point of bewilderment. How we define roles, especially with regard to the follow-up and review framework, must also not complicate matters, thereby making the task of building on what we have accomplished on the MDGs more difficult. Simply put, for South Africa, development is a continuum, which entails that, while learning from what did not work, we build on the successes achieved in implementing the MDGs and sustainable development so far.

The impression must not be created that, come September 2015, member states were doing something different and there is then a transition to something else. This is not the case. My Government will be obliged to continue its work and achievements as a result of the MDGs, for example, expanding and deepening its work on education, in accordance with the Constitution.

For South Africa, the triple challenges of poverty eradication, job creation and addressing income inequality are the most critical. These challenges exist globally and are also critical in terms of the role of the HLPF in overseeing the implementation of sustainable development as mandated in the Rio+20 Outcomes. Here we need to be clear about what will be applicable to developed and to developing countries, taking into account that our starting points are not the same.

The follow-up and review framework must also build on relevant regional and sub-regional mechanisms in Africa. In this regard, it is important to take into account existing frameworks and processes put in place by the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for example, as well as domestic mechanisms. Again, accountability and tracking progress must not be a huge growth industry to the detriment of the very intention of the SDGs.

In our discussions, the role of civil society has come up repeatedly. We need to be clear what is envisaged in this regard, given the diversity of civil society with regard to objectives and culture. South Africa’s Constitution outlines the separation of powers, which facilitates a process of “cooperative governance” with civil society. Furthermore, local and national elections are also part of the accountability framework, as well as local institutions such as school governing bodies, for example. One important consideration in our debate is where the role of civil society begins and ends over and above advocacy and the rules that will apply in this regard, and also how this applies to developed and developing countries respectively.

The South African Constitution also compels participation and consultation of the citizenry in decision-making. Furthermore, it defines good governance and there are relevant institutions and processes at all levels of government (national, provincial and local) to advance this.

In conclusion, it is important for South Africa that the way we frame the discussion on follow-up and review should facilitate the process and not threaten progress, and should also prevent the

discussion from becoming politicized to the detriment of the post 2015 development agenda to be adopted in September. Lastly, it will be important that this development agenda truly serves the poor and marginalized as a priority.

I thank you.