

REPUBLIC OF MALTA



Statement by
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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations

Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda
Statement by the Permanent Mission of Malta the Declaration

20 - 31 July 2015
United Nations, New York

(Please check against delivery)

Thank you Co-Facilitators.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Commission on behalf of the EU and its Member States and would like to provide some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Before starting, I wish to join other delegations in commending you for your sterling work, guidance and leadership which has led to a balanced draft text that reflects the discussions that have taken place so far in this process and hope that we will meet our deadline for 31 July.

At the outset, we wish to welcome the Preamble, as a means of communicating the key messages of the agenda in a clear and concise manner. In order to further improve these messages we believe that emphasis should also be made on the links between each of the 5P's together with their universal, integrated and transformative nature and that of the agenda while also avoiding a siloed approach.

We also welcome the references throughout the text to gender, human rights, peace, leaving no one behind, non-discrimination, and ecosystems which are all key that should be reinforced where appropriate.

Human rights are the basis for sustainable development and our overarching objective to eradicate poverty can only be achieved if all human beings have their fundamental human rights respected. To cite two examples, what is the use of our efforts to alleviate the poorest of the poor, if their right to education is stifled? What is the use of our efforts to assist those in need to be able to break the cycle of poverty, if their rights for equality before the law and other fundamental rights are not protected?

We also attach great importance to the empowerment of women and girls and it is troubling that in 2015 we are still witnessing gender based discrimination, young girls being deprived of their right to an education solely on the basis of their gender, or women being disenfranchised from inheritance, sending a message that their gender is somehow less equal. To this end we would request that the reference to gender discrimination be re-inserted in paragraph 19.

Co-facilitators,

Turning finally to the matter of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) we wish to reiterate that any understandings or proposals in this respect should fully reflect the sensitivities of countries. This particular issue has been discussed at great length in numerous fora within the UN, including during the discussions in the OWG last year on the SDGs, and any unqualified references to SRHR remains a contentious issue, which does not enjoy consensus.

For Malta, abortion remains illegal at law, and therefore we wish to reiterate our position that the question of SRHR should be reflected in accordance with the ICPD, as was also agreed by all in goal 5.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

Thank You.