Mr. Co-Facilitators,

First and foremost, let me join others in extending my appreciation to the co-facilitators and their team for preparing the revised zero draft. I would also like to align my statement with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Mr. Co-Facilitators,

We note with appreciation that the “revised zero draft” or so-called “final draft of the outcome document”, which you circulated on 8 July 2015 reflects many of the inputs and comments that member states made during the last session in June.

We are of the view that this revised draft is to be the basis for further consultation by member states under your wise guidance, to examine the issues that still persist. It is our fervent hope that our deliberations in the next two weeks will pave the way for consensus on the post-2015 development agenda that is universal, transformative, and equitable and leaves no one behind.
Mr. Co-Facilitators,

On top of the elements that have been conveyed by the G77 and China, with which my delegation fully concur, allow me to share additional observations on the revised draft in my national capacity. As requested, I will focus my observation on the Preamble and the Declaration.

First, the Preamble.

We note the explanation given previously that the Preambular part is intended to provide simplification for the outcome document and would serve as a communication tool. My delegation appreciates the fact that in the revised draft, the Preambular part has been amended to accommodate the concerns raised by member states by trying to capture the SDGs into the 5Ps.

However, we are of the view that it is neither our job nor that of our Heads of State to negotiate a media campaign or a narrative for communication for the post-2015 development agenda.

We feel that the “body and soul” of the outcome document lies in its main elements which are the Declaration, Means of Implementation and Global Partnership, Follow up and Review, as well as the annexes. It is unclear for us how that the proposed preamble and its 5Ps speak or “communicate” to the SDGs in their entirety, and a consistent manner.

My delegation fervently believe that the post-2015 development agenda should reiterate the interlinkages of the SDGs in its entirety. The Agenda needs to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in a manner that promotes the mutually-reinforcing characteristics of the three dimensions of sustainable
development. Thus, if the Preamble is to remain in the outcome document, it needs to assert these notions in a comprehensive manner.

Furthermore, while the 5Ps tries to cover all of the SDGs, actually there are elements of the SDGs that were still left out or altered. They include:

- Under the heading of “People”, we note that only the element, “ending hunger and malnutrition” of Goal 2 of the SDGs was reflected, but the reference to “achieving food security” and “promoting sustainable agriculture” are missing;

- Under the same heading, the reference to Goal 3 only focuses on “healthy life for all” and misses the reference to “promoting well-being for all”;

- Under the “Prosperity” heading, the Goal on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) has been reinterpreted into “sustainable lifestyles worldwide”. For purposes of consistency, the title of the SCP Goal, “Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns”, needs to be fully reflected in this regard.

- Still under the “Prosperity” heading, the reference to Goal 9 also missed the focus on “resilient infrastructure”.

Lastly, we are also of the view that the placement of headings in the Preamble part is unnecessary, as it further emphasizes the notion of silos.

In sum, unless all of these concerns can be addressed, we are of the view that the Preamble part be deleted, while we concentrate on the main body of the outcome document.
This brings me to my second point, which is the Declaration.

First, we appreciate the amendments and tweaks in this segment. However, we notice that the first two paragraphs in the Introduction have somewhat been amended.

Paragraph 1 of the previous zero draft stated that our Leaders “agreed on global goals”. The zero draft formulation in paragraph 2 also stated that the Leaders “adopted a historic agreement”. In this regard, as we are resolving our efforts to ensure the implementation of post-2015 development agenda, my delegation is of the view that a stronger call for political commitment to implement the global sustainable development goals needs to be maintained. Therefore we propose that paragraph 1 and 2 of the Introduction part in the revised draft should return to the formulation in the zero draft.

We are also of the view that the term “new global goals” in paragraph 1 is somewhat misleading and disconnects the SDGs from the existing MDGs. Since the post-2015 development agenda is intended to build on the achievements of the MDGs and at the same time seek to address the unfinished business of the MDGs, we propose that instead of using the term “new global goals” in paragraph 1, we should amend it into “global sustainable development goals”.

We also support the reference in paragraph 3 of the document to poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

With regard to paragraph 5, we are the view that the term “a new global compact” is inconsistent with the process that we are currently engaged in, and
propose that we should maintain consistency and refer to a “post-2015 development agenda” throughout the document.

We are pleased to see the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities in paragraph 10. We are of the view that the principle of CBDR should be the basis for the post-2015 development agenda, and therefore this formulation should be strengthened by deleting the word “inter alia” in this paragraph.

We also observed that the sub-heading in this part has been amended into “Shared Principles”, from the original formulation in the zero draft which read “Our Shared Commitments and principles”. We are of the view that watering down this important part suggests lack of seriousness and strong faith in ending poverty and ensuring the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. Therefore, we propose that the original sub-heading should be maintained.

Mr. Co-Facilitators,

With regard to the sub-heading “New Agenda”, we are pleased to see that the national policy space (in paragraph 20) as well as sustainable consumption and production are included in paragraph 26.

We feel that the reference of “shared responsibility” in paragraph 31 does not give added value to the paragraph, and contradicts the principle of CBDR. There is a lack of clarity what “shared responsibility” means in this context, and therefore, we are of the view that this term should be deleted.
Mr. Co-Facilitators,

We are also pleased to see the right to development reflected in paragraph 30. We also welcome the inclusion of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation. Since we are reaffirming our resolve to ensure no-one will be left behind in the post 2015 development agenda, it would be hypocritical and unacceptable if the rights of those under colonialism and foreign occupation are set aside.

Finally, we are of the view that under the sub-heading on “Implementation”, paragraph 34 on ODA needs to recognize the related commitments of developed countries. We therefore support the proposal to improve this paragraph. Using the language from target 17.2 of SDGs will be most suitable to reflect this important concern.

Mr. Co-facilitators,

These are our preliminary comments on the Preamble and Declaration. We will send our statement and input to the Secretariat for your further reference.

I thank you.

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