

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Statement

STATEMENT BY

Jeanne d'Arc Byaje,

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-2015 AGENDA

-Comments to Follow up and Review in the Final Draft

July 24th, 2014

Co-facilitators,

1. Allow me to thank you for giving me the floor, and for moving the follow up and review process in the right direction. I would like to align myself with the statements delivered by the Representatives of the major groups we belong to namely South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Tanzania, for the African Group, Zambia and Benin for the LLDCs and LDCs respectively.

Co-facilitators,

2. In response to interventions from the floor, I would like to begin by stating that my delegation does not support a single monitoring and review process for both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Post 2015 agenda. The two processes, although complementary should remain separate.

3. Rwanda is of the view that the follow up and review process affords us the opportunity to critically consider, how “business as usual” has changed, and how we can continue to improve and develop our strategies for implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda.

4. It is with the overarching understanding that the follow up and review process is voluntary. In our interventions yesterday, we recalled mechanisms that were catalytic to our growth and development, but it is imperative to understate that there is no “one-size-fits-all model.” National ownership of the agenda is the only way to achieve truly sustainable and long-term development, a point that Rwanda has consistently stated, but even more convincingly demonstrated. Our strong accountability mechanisms at the national level has allowed us to adjust where needed and evaluate our own development trajectory.

5. Against this backdrop, we would like to propose several textual amendments, most of which are inline with proposals made by the G77 and the African Group.

Co-facilitators,

6. To begin, I would like to consider paragraph 43, and fully endorse the addition of reliable and timely data as proposed by the G77, as well as to add African countries to the listing.

7. On Para 56, we would also like to add “mutual accountability” in the last sentence, so as to read that with this agenda, “mutual **accountability**, trust and understanding among all nations will be important.”

8. On paragraph 57 (a) we would like to rephrase the last sentence as follows: “As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, outcomes from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at global levels and at regional levels where appropriate.

Secondly, Co-facilitators,

9. Under paragraph 58, the first sentence considers global indicators that have yet to be identified, never-mind agreed upon. It will therefore be important to ensure that indicators, once identified, are feasible for member states to adopt, and strike an appropriate political balance. We therefore appreciate the opportunity for participation that is provided in this provision.

10. Under paragraph 59, we would like to propose to clearly define the type of support that African countries, LDC, LLDCS would need in terms of ensuring access to disaggregated data. Therefore one way we can do so is by clearly stating that the support would be “**in terms of transfer of technology, capacity building and financial resources...**”

11. On paragraph 58, since the global indicator framework to be agreed by the UN Statistical Commission, has yet to be presented and adopted by the member states, we would like a formulation that preserve independence of the development of the global indicators, but at the same preserve the political balance.

12. At the regional level, it may be of the utmost relevance and influence to

respective members, as regional cooperation creates an enabling environment that serves as the basis for sustainable development. The African Peer Review Mechanism has been instrumental to regional development, cooperation, and critical consideration of how to create a more enabling environment for progress in development. A multilateral, nonpartisan, evidence-based, peer review mechanism, the APRM offers constructive analyses and proposals to the region, but needs further support from the international community in order to conduct reviews beyond Goal 16 and general governance. We thereby look forward to such support and welcome the provision on relevant UN regional commissions in paragraph 63.

Finally, Co-facilitators,

13. Related to the current proposal from the UN Secretary General, for a uniform way in which countries may report. We would like to underscore the need to fully respect our different national realities, capacities, priorities, policies, and levels of development, while also taking into account variance in our statistical capabilities. Therefore, a blueprint for a national review process would not be acceptable and we call for the removal of this request.

14. **Allow me Co-facilitators, to kindly share what Rwanda has been doing in domesticating the SDGs for better monitoring and Review following suggestions included in** para 61, related to the inclusion of national parliaments and also drawing from our experience with MDGs implementation.

15. As for the MDGs agenda, the SDGs review will be citizen-led at the national level to ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency in order to assess if adequate services have been rendered to the people. That is our way of insuring inclusive governance and involving people in taking decisions over issues that directly affect them.

16. In comparison to the MDG agenda which was concise and easier to communicate, we are aware that this new agenda is more complex given

the number of goals and targets and indicators and more importantly account taken on the fact that it has to be mindful of the 3 dimensions of sustainable development to preserve our planet. Nevertheless, Rwanda has learned from the MDGs implementation that national leadership and ownership are central to sustaining development efforts. They will continue to serve as key enabling factors to the integration into national planning, budgeting and reporting frameworks to inform the national, regional and global review of the Post 2015 agenda. In this respect, Rwanda has already embarked on that path with the Parliament taking the lead in trying to domesticate the Post 2015.

17. Going forward, Rwanda is gearing up to first integrate the SDGs in the country's medium and long-term development strategies to allow country adaptation of the SDGs at the national level to reflect their specific priorities, capacities, opportunities and challenges and for better monitoring progress and their effective implementation. That smooth transition from MDG to SDG implementation will go hand in hand with strengthening capacity building, collection of better disaggregated data and involvement of all actors including civil society and citizens in the tracking of progress.

18. In closing I wish to reiterate our full support and confidence in bringing this process to an outcome that we can all support and be proud of, and we look forward to meeting the July 31st deadline.