

Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Seventh Session

New York, 24 July 2015

Follow-up and Review

Statement by Switzerland

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Please allow me to start with a remark to those concerned about this chapter being too prescriptive: For Switzerland, the follow-up and review must be an **integral part** of the Post-2015 Agenda. We therefore understand the purpose of this chapter to define the **cornerstones** of a follow-up and review framework, while **keeping options open** and providing member states with **specific proposals** that they may want to take up in the future. In this regard, we thank the Co-Facilitators for the many good elements in this chapter.

In particular, we strongly support the central role of the High-level Political Forum in the follow-up and review, as well as the need to hold the next meeting of the **HLPF** under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in **2019**. We also welcome the different elements concerning the elaboration of indicators, including the reference to **annual SDG progress reports**.

We also see some areas where it will be important that the text is further strengthened. I will focus on **6 points** today and will be proposing concrete and more detailed language accordingly:

(1) **Firstly**, we welcome the inclusive and participative follow-up and review process called for in **paragraph 57. Participation** has been a key factor in the elaboration of an ambitious agenda

and should continue to guide both its implementation and follow-up. In our view, and in the view many others have expressed, this principle must be strengthened to specify that participation is important “**at all levels**”.

(2) **Secondly**, we, and many others, believe that the **national level** will be the foundation of an effective follow-up and review framework. We are setting an ambitious agenda for ourselves, which will not materialize if countries do not have the **tools** at their disposal to make the necessary changes. We see **national reviews**, linked with the regional and global levels, as one on the key instruments to support and guide countries in implementation over the next 15 years. Hence, we propose to strengthen the language accordingly:

In **paragraph 60**, we would therefore speak of “urging” rather than “encouraging” member states. And in **paragraph 61**, we should encourage “all” member states to conduct regular reviews, while these reviews “should inform regional and global reviews”. We consider it very important that there is an explicit link between the national, regional and global reviews.

My next four points concern the section on the **global level**:

(3) **Concerning the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)**, and following on from the exchange this morning, allow me to take this opportunity to briefly share **our view on the reports that will be a necessary basis for discussion at the HLPF**.

First, the HLPF under the auspices of the UNGA, held every 4 years, should be informed through a “**flagship GSDR**” that highlights the most relevant information regarding the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, including from a science-perspective, and key recommendations for policy-making at the highest level. But this flagship GSDR should not be an assessment of assessments only, but also an **assessment of realization of the SDGs**. Therefore, it should draw from the reports of global progress on the SDGs, the assessments and reports of thematic reviews, while, of course, also providing the science-policy interface. We suggest explicitly adding this important aspect to paragraph 65.

Second, as a basis for the **annual meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the ECOSOC** we need

- a **SDG trends report** that provides **up-to-date information** on the advancement of the SDGs at the global level, to be prepared by the Statistics Commission.
- And we need a **thematic GSDR** (based on the annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF) that includes inputs from science and academia and draws from thematic reviews of the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental forums.

In our view, this report is not an aggregation of national and regional reports. They should be fed into HLPF individually. We propose to add clarity either in **paragraph 65 or paragraph 67** on thematic reviews.

(4) **Concerning thematic reviews at the HLPF**, we welcome the explicit mention in **paragraph 67** but consider that we should be even clearer about the **path going forward**. We consider that the thematic reviews will only have true added-value at the HLPF if the different goals reviewed are done so in an **integrated and holistic manner**. To support member states in this, we suggest that the UN Secretary-General should provide us with a proposal of themes, in a way that ensures that all 17 SDGs are reviewed over the course of each 4 year cycle of the HLPF.

(5) Likewise, we do support calls for a clearer indication of the **road ahead to prepare for the next meetings of the HLPF, starting in 2016**. We welcome your proposal in **paragraph 72** in this regard and suggest that the proposal for organizational arrangements be clearly stated to be considered by the HLPF in 2016. This will ensure adequate time for preparation as well as allow us to make use of the HLPF's universal membership with adequate participation in the preparation of future meetings.

We also support language for an additional paragraph to **call on the UNGA and the ECOSOC** to also take necessary measures to contribute to integrated implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda.

(6) **Finally**, Co-facilitators, we agree with the many calls over the last few days to include a strong message on the key role of the **UN Development System** in supporting the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda in a coherent and integrated manner.

In our view, the current **paragraph 71** is insufficiently clear in this regard. We therefore very much support the proposal to use **language agreed in paragraph 74 of the Addis Abeba outcome**, as read out last Tuesday by Colombia.

In addition, we support a specific reference addressing the need for the **UN system** to avail itself of a strategy, in order to ensure **system-wide planning and reporting** on implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. We are flexible on whether these elements are in the Declaration or the Follow-up and Review chapter.

As mentioned in the beginning, we are happy to share concrete wording proposals on all these issues.

Thank you.