



G-15 Joint Statement

To the ECOSOC High-level Segment

17 – 20 July 2017, New York

“Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges”

**Delivered by Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera,
Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka**

Mr. President,

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Group of Developing Countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin America. Our Group is focused on South-South cooperation and capacity building for the mutual benefit of our members, especially in achieving our collective socio-economic goals while fostering the environment.
2. The G-15 welcomes this year’s focus on eradicating extreme poverty and our Group welcomes the report of the Secretary General that focuses on the challenges of eradicating poverty in all its forms. We note that the prevalence of extreme poverty has continuously reduced in recent decades, especially due to the economic progress made by developing nations. Between 2000 and 2015, over 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty which represents one of the fastest rates of worldwide poverty reduction in human history.
3. Our Group welcomes the call for the eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty. We note that this objective can be achieved by the year 2030 with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, provide a comprehensive global framework for eradicating poverty and advancing sustainable development.
4. The Foreign Ministers of the G-15, the apex decision making body of our Group have identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a plan of action for the ‘people, planet and prosperity’ built on the three pillars of social, economic and

environment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We note that poverty eradication is a primary, overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda. The first Sustainable Development Goal is to “End poverty in all its forms. Our countries have identified the 2030 Agenda as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South.

5. The Group further affirms that eradication of poverty must remain at the centre of our endeavours. While acknowledging that the primary responsibility of implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda lies with the respective governments, it is a fact that most developing and least developed countries will face a greater challenge in operationalizing the agreed commitments, given the national resource constraints. In this context, the global partnerships should be intensified from the MDG era, and our Group hopes that the commitments made in the new Development Agenda in mobilizing financial resources and capacity building to developing countries and the reaffirmed commitments by developed countries to achieve Official Development Assistance targets (ODAs) would be operationalized sustainably, in order for developing countries to keep on par with the required progress.
6. The G-15 further recognises the significant role that the ECOSOC has to play in the implementation phase of the Development Agenda. Our Group welcomes the role played by the High Level Political Forum that shall carry out regular voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda which will include developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities and other stakeholders. The HLPF which is themed this year ‘Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world’ will provide an opportunity to lay a solid foundation on the necessary mechanisms to assess the progress of the implementation phase of the Agenda. The G-15 reiterates that such a follow-up and review mechanism should reaffirm national sovereignty.
7. The G-15 calls for meaningful technology transfers and opportunities for capacity building in order to achieve the stated goals under the Development Agenda, particularly with regard to technologies that would result in higher rates of economic growth. As witnessed in recent decades rapid economic growth and greater opportunities for socio-economic mobility provides the best chance for uplifting the poorer segments of society. In this regard we call on in particular for knowledge and technology transfer in renewable energy that would also address the growing concerns of climate change while at the same time providing greater possibilities for faster economic growth in developing countries. The Group therefore strongly supports a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

Thank you.
