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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Dr. Yinager Dessie Belay, Minister for National Planning  
Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at  
the General Debate of**

**High Level Ministerial Segment of the HLPF 2017**

**18 July 2017, New York**

United Nations  
New York

**Mr. President,**

**Honorable Ministers,**

At the outset let me associate myself with the statement delivered on behalf of G-77 and China, African Groups and LDC.

Since 2000 global poverty has been halved. Despite this progress, an enhanced and revitalized global partnership is required to end poverty and achieve prosperity. The world is facing multiple political, economic and environmental challenges that hinder the implementation of the 2030 and Addis Agendas; and the Paris Climate Agreement. Hence, my delegation believes that the theme of the HLPF- “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World”, is indeed very timely. The 2017 HLPF is not, therefore, only a global platform to evaluate the implementation the Sustainable Development Agenda, but it is also a forum that affords us the opportunity to renew our universal commitment for the timely and full implementation of the SDGs. In this regard, Ethiopia welcomes the Draft Ministerial Declaration and hopes it would be adopted by consensus.

Ethiopia is one the 44 member states that are going to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).As eradication of poverty and achieving inclusive and sustainable development have been the overarching policy objectives of Ethiopia, we have taken the VNRs as an opportunity to deepen national ownership of the SDGs, to enhance national participation in the domestication and implementation of our national Growth and Transformation Plan, which integrates all SDGs. We look forward to presenting our experiences in this regard and to learn from other member states.

**Mr. President,**

Setting the national vision of becoming a lower middle-income country by 2025, Ethiopia has made considerable progress in economic growth, infrastructure and social development and environmental management in the last decade and half. We have established a federal and decentralized system of administration to address economic, social and political inequalities. To ensure that no one is left behind, we have been effectively implementing pro-poor and pro-growth development policies with the participation of all development stakeholders, including persons with disabilities.

As a result, Ethiopia has met most of the MDGs, including halving poverty; per capita income has grown substantially; social development has improved significantly; infrastructure connectivity has increased; foreign direct investment is growing, and the economy is going through structural transformation. Our significant progress has been underpinned by rapid, broad and sustained economic growth, making Ethiopia one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Early performance trends of the implementation of SDGs in Ethiopia are also promising. According to the World Bank Report, Ethiopia is forecasted to be the fastest growing economy in the world in 2017. Our progress has been the result of firm political commitment, national leadership, public participation and effective support from our development partners. We wish to underline here, we have been the beneficiary of both North-South and South-South cooperation and our experience is a good illustration of how much indeed the two could be complementary.

However, poverty, climate change-induced drought, deficits and challenges in good governance and weak export sector remain among our principal development challenges. The Ethiopian Government is committed to redouble its efforts to address these constraints and accelerate the implementation of its Growth and Transformation Plan II.

We realize fully that to achieve our goals we would need to count on international solidarity. National development efforts to implement SDGs should be complemented by strengthened global partnership. Acting together — in the spirit of renewed partnership that we are all obliged to promote — through effective multilateralism, the international community should translate into action its commitments in the 2030 and Addis Agendas and the Paris Climate Agreement. This would involve providing nationally aligned financial and technological support to developing countries, particularly LDCs. It is only through revitalized global solidarity that we can overcome our common challenges and maximize opportunities to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

I Thank You