



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

HON. NAOMI SHABAN

MINISTER FOR GENDER AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS

OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

FIRST MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 14, 2013, NEW YORK

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STATEMENT BY HON. NAOMI SHABAN, MINISTER FOR GENDER AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 14, 2013, NEW YORK

Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67th session of the General Assembly

Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to make this statement on behalf of the delegation of Kenya. At the outset, I want to thank you, Mr. President for organizing this very important meeting and you, the co facilitators, for helping member states produce the working documents for this first meeting of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the establishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs). At the same time, I take this opportunity to convey my Government's sincere condolences to the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the demise of President Hugo Chavez. Kenya stands with you during this trying moment in your country's history.

Mr. President,

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to make a few comments both on the process and substance regarding the formulation of the SDGs. Kenya aligns itself with the statement that will be made by the G-77 and China. On matters pertaining to the process, Kenya fully supports the draft working methods that has been negotiated and agreed by member states. My delegation considers it a reflection of consensus among member states. It should therefore help guide this process moving forward. As a country, Kenya will always support an open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiation process whose outcomes are adopted by consensus.

On the substantive matters, I wish to reiterate that we, member states, have this historic opportunity to collectively develop a set of global sustainable development goals (SDGs) that will provide guidelines for the achievement of sustainability in our development. In this regard,

Kenya expects the proposed SDGs to address the reasons why sustainable development has remained elusive over the last century in a concise, holistic, coherent and balanced manner. The Open Working Group has to consider the issues in focused and pragmatic way so as to develop concrete goals and targets that tackle current shortfalls in the implementation of sustainable development.

It is important to remind ourselves that about 13years ago, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. However, to date most developing countries especially those in Africa are still off-track and will not achieve the MDGs by 2015. Kenya believes that the MDGs, the internationally agreed development goals as well as the outcomes of the major UN summits and conferences are very relevant in moving this process forward. Therefore, the SDGs formulation process must take into account these vital resources building on their strengths and improving on their weaknesses. I single out the review of the MDGs as the goals are narrow in scope, are limited in aspiration, are focused on results rather than enablers of development and on quantity rather than quality.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world has changed significantly compared to 13 years ago when the Millennium Development Goals were adopted. Even as countries make progress, we seem to move from crisis to crisis; from the economic and financial crisis to food and energy crisis as well as to environmental crisis. Our countries continue to face intermittent economic shocks with the poor disproportionately affected. Inequalities among states coupled with massive youth unemployment in developing countries have become the hallmarks of this century. Climate change, ecosystem and land degradation and the loss of biodiversity have continued to undermine our food and energy security and compromise our development potential. These challenges have made poverty eradication even more difficult than before.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya believes that the SDGs must balance global agenda setting with national circumstances allowing adequate policy space especially for developing countries. We must all strive to

formulate sustainable development goals that provide for a just and equitable world that promotes gender equality and empowerment of women. Kenya believes that we should take international obligations in line with our national visions and development priorities that reflect the principle of common but responsibility (CBDR). We have to address poverty eradication in a manner that ensures ~~previous~~ international development commitments made to developing countries with regard to poverty eradication are neither side-stepped nor ignored.

Mr. President

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to constructive engagement during the consultations processes leading to the formulation of the sustainable development goals. In this regard, Kenya will remain supportive of an open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental process that honors and promotes effective participation of all member states with final decisions taken by consensus. These principles are very important and must be upheld because the goals will apply to all states.

It is Kenya's view that work on the substantive agenda of the OWG must progress at pace that is consultative and inclusive and that brings all member states on board. We should begin with broad stock taking exercise that endeavors to converge all the processes of the Rio+20 Outcome in a manner that addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as the means of implementation of whatever goals we agree to set ourselves.

Finally, I wish to thank you, member states, for the honor and confidence that you have bestowed on my delegation following the election of H.E Ambassador Macharia Kamau as co-chair of this important intergovernmental process. I want to assure you of Kenya's readiness to play its rightful role in ensuring the process remains legitimate and credible for a successful outcome that will move sustainable development agenda forward.

I thank you.

