



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY H.E AHMAD
ALLAM-MI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST
MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 14, 2013, NEW YORK**

President of the General Assembly, H.E. Vuk Jeremic

Secretary-General, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The Group aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the G-77 and China. The Group also takes this opportunity to convey its sincere condolences to the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the passing on of President Hugo Chavez.

Mr. President,

The African Group wishes to make the following proposals on both process and substance of the SDGs. First, on the process; the Group underscores the need for work of the Open Working Group on SDGs to

be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. The OWG should take into account all the input and contributions from member states and other stakeholders, synthesize them, and through consensus come up with a proposal for SDGs for consideration and appropriate action by the 68th Session.

On substance, I wish to recall that the Rio+20 Conference underscored the importance of the MDGs, and the commitment of the international community to their achievement. It also recognized the important role that sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the JPOI, could play in pursuing sustainable development, coherent with and integrated in the Post-2015 development agenda, and without diverting focus on efforts to achieve the MDGs. The conference also committed to mobilizing means of implementation: financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building for the implementation of sustainable development.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Group is aware of the possibility of the proliferation of UN development goals. We note with concern that this could put pressure on the limited institutional and financial capacities of many African countries especially if the goals appear to be unrelated, distinct or separate. The Group therefore emphasizes the need for coherence in policy making and synergistic implementation of the Internationally

Agreed Development Goals (IADGs). We believe and will continue to support the view that the SDGs should be based on the MDGs building on the outcomes of their review process as well as making a direct linkage with the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The Group also emphasizes that most of its member states remain off-track in achieving the MDGs by 2015. In this regard, the anticipated SDGs must not divert attention and resources from the implementation of the MDGs. The Group further stresses that the SDG formulation process must take into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development, as recognized in the Rio+20 Outcome. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should guide the process and this is important in promoting and ensuring equitable development.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that Africa will work as team and accord the co-chairs of the OWG the necessary support to enable them achieve objectives of the Group. In this regard, the Group congratulates the two co-chairs of the Open Working Group, the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Kenya on their election. The Group pledges to work with both co-chairs as well as all member states to ensure a constructive and consensual outcome.

I thank you for your attention.