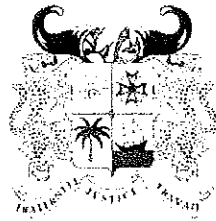


**MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**SIXTY SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE OWG ON SDGs**

**STATEMENT  
BY**

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AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

**NEW YORK, 17 April 2013**

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**Messieurs les Co-Présidents,**

**Je voudrais vous remercier des bonnes dispositions que vous avez prises pour la tenue de cette seconde session du Groupe de travail ouvert chargé de définir les Objectifs de Développement Durable. La façon magistrale dont vous dirigez nos travaux est le gage du succès de nos délibérations.**

Distinguished co-chairs

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs. This statement is complementing the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China. Paragraph 246 of the Rio+20 outcome has summarized the conceptual issue of the SDGs.

We reiterate that the SDGs should primarily be based on Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Rio+20 outcome document. The SDGs should fully and faithfully reflect all Rio principles. We would particularly refer to Rio Principle 6, which clearly articulates that the special situation and needs of the least developed countries shall be given special priority. Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 181 of the Rio+20 outcome, the Istanbul Programme of Action should also be fully integrated in the SDGs.

The SDGs should fully absorb the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs. One of the significant lessons from MDGs is that there has been remarkable progress globally, but it is uneven within and across countries. LDCs are lagging behind with more than 47 percent of their population living below the extreme poverty level. They are also lagging behind in all other areas of MDGs.

From these records, an important lesson that we draw is that the SDGs will remain incomplete and lack legitimacy unless they give focused attention to LDCs, who are the poorest segment of the global society.

An equally important lesson is that implementation mechanisms are critical. Lack of stronger support rendered MDGs an unfinished business for our group. We don't want this to be repeated in the case of future SDGs.

Based on the Rio Principle 6 and in light of the key lessons learned from the MDGs, we call for a "Principle of Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs (DPTL)". This is indeed a faithful reflection of the outcomes of the Rio and the Rio+20.

The group of LDCs is a long established category of vulnerable countries. Therefore, we do not need to reinvent the wheel by pursuing arbitrary and non-agreed sub-categorization of countries.

LDCs are not causing the problems related to environmental degradation, but are exposed to the full range of effects. Therefore, one size fits all treatment of countries will not be acceptable. LDCs must have a differential treatment in the context of obligations, consistent with the principles of equity and justice.

LDCs recognize the importance of and are committed to domestic resource mobilization to finance its development. However, the low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment and a small tax base limits our domestic resource mobilization efforts.

We cannot mobilize sufficient resources domestically to deal with the developmental and environmental challenges. So, LDCs must be provided with preferential treatment in regards to the international support including ODA, trade, technology and knowledge transfer, investment and debt.

Therefore, the SDGs should be guided by the Principle of Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs- in short DPTL.

LDCs would underline that the productive capacity building, economic crisis and resilience building, capacity building, floods, droughts and desertification, commodities, water and sanitation, sustainable transport, population dynamics, migration, access to energy and peace and security must be included in the thematic areas for discussion. This is indeed not an exhaustive list. We will come up with new proposals as we discuss the programme of work.

The issue brief on the conceptual issues prepared by the Technical Support Team (TST) should have included all the above ideas.

The LDCs want strong voice and participation in the entire process of the OWG. To that end, we have already established a 14-member core group of LDCs to actively participate in the OWG. We are meeting regularly to formalize our position. We invite our partners as well as the secretariat to provide necessary support to our efforts.

We would also request you to ensure that LDCs are fully involved in all procedural and substantive issues. Therefore, please allow us enough time for our group consultations in order to properly prepare our positions on these issues.

I thank you all.