

*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

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE OWG ON SDGs

(POVERTY)

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E.MR. JEAN -FRANCIS R. ZINSOU
AMBASSADOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

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Messieurs les Co-Présidents,

Je voudrais vous remercier pour la dextérité avec laquelle vous dirigez nos travaux. Ma délégation vous assure de sa pleine coopération.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Poverty and hunger are multidimensional problems that pose serious constraints to LDCs' efforts to make progress in human and social development. This is due to inability of our countries to provide access to essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation.

Most of our populations lack resources to participate in social, economic and political life and benefit from economic growth because our Countries are characterized by a low endowment of productive capacities.

Paragraph 105 of the Rio+20 outcome aptly recognizes that there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, but this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, especially in LDCs and Africa.

The subsequent paragraphs of the same document recognizes that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, enabling environment and universal access to social services are key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the MDGs. We should also bear in mind the Rio Principle 5 that mandated all States to cooperate in eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We are happy to note that globally the poverty reduction target has been achieved. However, in LDCs, still more 47 percent of the population are living in extreme poverty, while as per MDG target, it should have been reduced to 32 percent. The absolute number of poor people has increased in many LDCs even during the periods of sustained economic growth.

According to a conservative estimate undertaken by OHRLLS, the number of extreme poor living in LDCs has increased from 19% in 1990-95 period to 30% during 2005-2010 period.

The group of LDCs is of the view that in the area of poverty, the priority should be guided by the following four key principles:

First: Though absolute number is important, the primary consideration should be the percentage figure, which is statistically more significant. In LDCs, 47 percent of the population is living below the poverty line compared to the 20 in other developing countries.

Second: Countries capacity to deal with the challenges by themselves. As we mentioned yesterday, despite sincere efforts, the low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment and a small tax base limits our domestic resource mobilization efforts. In 2011, the average GDP per capita in LDCs was \$ 800 compared to \$37000 in OECD countries and \$ 4650 in MICs.

Third: The trends in poverty reduction over the years. We have already provided the scenario before. The LDCs are stricken by multiple vulnerabilities that constrain their efforts to raise the living standards of their populations. Their problems are systemic in nature and should be addressed as such.

Fourth: countries initial endowments and characteristics in terms of resources, institutions and pervasive challenges. In these areas, LDCs are at the highest of the ladder in terms of challenges and at the bottom of it in terms of the capacity.

Through you Mr. Co-Chairs, we would request the Technical Support Team and the Scientific community to undertake some deep researches and analysis in the above four areas to enable us to take an informed decision that ensures equity and justice both in terms of goals and the means to achieve them.

The group of LDCs, like many others, wants to see a world free from poverty and hunger both for our generation and the generations to come. In this endeavor, LDCs will have to make a long way to reach the shared prosperity that they have been longing since many decades.

In short, LDCs have a longer way to go than others to reach that goal. We therefore reiterate our call for adopting the “Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs (DPTL)” as a key guiding principle of the SDGs.

I thank for your kind attention.