

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Intervention on behalf of Denmark, Norway and Ireland on the occasion of
the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals meeting on**

**Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, Infrastructure Development, and
Industrialisation, and Macroeconomic policy questions, including trade,
international financial system, and external debt sustainability**

**by Ambassador David Donoghue,
Permanent Representative of Ireland**

**United Nations Headquarters
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Check against delivery

Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured to make this statement on behalf of our team, Denmark, Norway and Ireland. We would also like to reiterate our thanks to the UN system for their excellent Issues brief.

The world has seen unprecedented growth and prosperity over the last 15 years. At the global level the number of people living in extreme poverty has been halved. However, this has been achieved because of good progress in a relatively small number of countries. There are many places where growth has been weak or where rapid growth has not reduced poverty - places where growth, in fact, has not been sustained, sustainable or inclusive.

Our team strongly believes that sustained and sustainable, inclusive growth must be central to the new development framework.

Inclusive growth is when all citizens, including those living in poverty, participate in economic activity as the agents and beneficiaries of growth.

Sustained and sustainable growth has to be resource efficient and it must protect and build the stocks of environmental, social, human, physical and financial capital on which it is based.

If we are going to strive to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, **the way we measure and account for economic performance must change** so that we look beyond simple measures of Gross Domestic Product or Gross National Income.

- **We must use measures of the structure, distribution and composition** of growth, in addition to the rate.
- **We need a much broader system of capital accounting** – It must incorporate social, human and environmental capital as well as financial and physical capital.
- We also need to capture the value and contribution of unpaid work to the economy, as well as the costs of social and environmental externalities.

There are a number of critical issues that must be addressed in the context of the new development framework if we are to make progress towards sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth:

Inclusive growth must address inequality, by delivering benefits for the entire population and especially for the poorest people and for those currently excluded. Decisions over public resources and policies will need to favour the interests of these groups. **This requires the effective involvement of all stakeholders in policy making.**

Growth must be evident in the livelihoods of poor people, **there must be a focus on the creation of decent work and decent jobs.** Working conditions must be safe and ensure the health of workers.

National social protection systems and universal access to education are key policy instruments for achieving economic sustainability and inclusiveness. Sound institutions are also essential.

Women's economic empowerment is essential. We must ensure women benefit from economic opportunity and activity on the same basis as men. This must include valuing, reducing and fairer sharing the burden of unpaid work overwhelmingly borne by women.

The monitoring of targets and indicators should be disaggregated to measure the impact on women.

We must move to greener growth paths that maximize natural resource use efficiency, minimize waste, pollution and carbon emissions and build resilience. This will mean changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption everywhere. Particular attention must be given to reducing the carbon footprint of consumption in developed countries. It will also mean that as we put prices on environmental externalities we also develop effective ways of paying for the production of global climate and environmental goods in developing countries.

Macroeconomic stability and well regulated financial markets are essential – for stable and predictable prices, for economic resilience and to ensure the financial services and capital needed for productive investment, sustainable infrastructure and technologies for the future. **For inclusive growth, macroeconomic policies must be designed to deliver these objectives in those markets on which poor people depend for their livelihoods.**

The governance of global financial and commodity markets must be strengthened to prevent future shocks. **The larger economies must ensure their policies which affect global markets and trade are supportive of sustained inclusive growth in poorer countries.** We need to share the benefits of more open international trade and make better use of preferential trade agreements through building trade capacity and easing access.

Many developing countries, including some of the poorest, have significant reserves of mineral resources, which are often underpriced and over-exploited. **These exhaustible reserves must be transformed into sustainable sources of future growth.** This requires better and more accountable natural resource management, the strengthening of regulatory frameworks and the capacities of national revenue authorities and the tackling of illicit financial flows.

Sustainability demands new directions of innovation and economic transformation – in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable resource based growth, ecosystem services and resilient livelihoods. National and global strategies and investment for innovation need to facilitate technology transfer, but must also reach out to local level and recognise that **much of the innovation for inclusive and sustainable growth will be context specific and locally driven.**

We believe that all the issues mentioned above must be central to the Post 2015 framework, indeed potential targets critical for sustainable and inclusive growth will range right across the framework. We, therefore, look forward to discussing key relevant issues in our future meetings, including global governance, partnerships, sustainable production and consumption, means of implementation, trade, financing, technology transfer and inequality. This will give us a better perspective on how best to frame goals and targets around this issue.

However, we do believe the new framework must deliver inclusive and sustainable growth and must be able to measure progress towards this objective over time.

I thank you, Mr Chair.