

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**

**The Needs of Countries in Special Situations – African countries, Least Developed
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as
well as the specific challenges facing Middle Income Countries**

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

**United Nations Headquarters
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Mr Chair,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the team of Denmark, Norway and Ireland. We believe that the needs of countries in special situations, particularly African Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing states, must be addressed by the Post 2015 framework. We bear this very much in mind in elaborating all of our team positions in this process.

It is agreed by everyone that poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development are intrinsically linked. Progress on poverty eradication and the alleviation of hunger remains, unfortunately very uneven, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Post 2015 framework must fully integrate sustainable development. And it must have a clear focus on poverty eradication, reaching those most in need and underscoring the importance of human rights and a life of dignity for all which leaves no one behind.

One of the most important dimensions will be addressing the threats posed by climate change and by other aspects of environmental degradation. These are critical issues for many African countries, for LDCs, for LLDCs and for SIDS. Addressing these impacts, including rising sea levels, is particularly critical for SIDS, and in many cases affects their very survival.

We must address the increasing impact of man-made and natural hazards on these countries and help them to increase their resilience. While some SIDS are classified as having middle income status or are close to this status, the particular vulnerabilities of the SIDS highlight how development gains can be eroded through forces which are beyond their control. The statistics from the Issues Brief are startling: 6 of the 10 countries with the highest proportion of annual average losses caused by major natural disasters are SIDS.

Similarly the effects of climate change, drought, land degradation and other environmental phenomena on many African and least developed countries can severely impact on their ability to increase agricultural productivity and to progress rural development – which are essential for achieving global food and nutrition security. Ocean acidification and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing also continue to threaten livelihoods in many SIDS and coastal developing states.

Supporting effective job creation and employment-intensive growth is critical for all countries' sustainable economic development, for gender equality, for security and for structural transformation. This is particularly so for African countries, LDCs and LLDCs, especially in light of the continued population growth these countries are experiencing.

An expanding young population presents a valuable opportunity for growth and sustainable development. But at the same time it presents great challenges in terms of providing employment and a basic standard of living. Our team has already made a strong call for addressing employment and decent work in this process, including in so far as it bears on gender equality.

At the global level, we recognise the critical need for a renewed global partnership that will address global governance issues like trade, illicit financial flows, expanding market access and addressing other financing issues. ODA remains a key element of support, in particular for LDCs. We are determined to meet our commitments in relation to the achievement of the 0.7% target; and we are also increasingly targeting ODA at those who need it most.

Governance is another important factor. There is an urgent need to reinforce the mechanisms for financial transparency; to strengthen

institutions and intensify the fight against corruption and tax evasion; and to seek improved business environments and the transparent management of extractive resources. According to the Financial Transparency Coalition, an amount 10 times the value of ODA is siphoned out of developing countries every year through illicit capital flows. One estimate approximates the potential benefit of challenging international tax abuse to a reduction in the under-five mortality rate of 1,000 per day. The problem of illicit capital flows must be addressed urgently.

As we outlined during the discussion on inclusive economic growth, achieving sustainable growth will require a greater focus by all countries on moving to greener growth paths. Paths which maximize the efficient use of natural resources, minimizing waste, pollution, carbon emissions as well as building resilience. Particular attention must be paid to reducing the carbon footprint of consumption in developed countries. In addition, environmental costs should be included in the calculation of the prices for goods and services which are provided.

Our team also recognises the reality that a significant portion of the world's poorest people will continue to live in middle-income countries and that must be recognised and reflected in any framework which seeks to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

We must also recognise the challenges faced by countries affected by conflict, the need for commitment to peace and stability and reflect their development requirements in the post 2015 framework. We want to focus attention on those who are most in need and we recognise that this requires an assessment of a broad range of issues going beyond simply income status.

We must see how we can build ambitious, universal goals that also complement the national development plans of all countries and recognise their particular situations and needs.

We have to recognise that, while issues like employment- centred economic growth, structural transformation and rural development might be common goals, they require a mix of policies and measures in each individual country which will respond to that country's unique situation.

We look forward to working with all regional groups and other groupings of UN Member States, and building on a number of existing frameworks and consultation processes. This means not only the MDGs, but also the priorities which are being outlined now, and will be in the time ahead, by the African Group, the Global SIDS Conference in 2014, LDCs, and others.

Thank you Mr Chair.