



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE-BOTA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP (OWG) ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)
17TH – 19TH APRIL 2013
ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP**

Please Check Against Delivery

New York
17 April 2013

Co- Chairs,

I thank you for giving me the floor to contribute to this important discussion pertaining to both the Conceptual Issues on SDGs development as well as on Poverty Eradication. On behalf the members of my region namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and I would like to align my statement with the statement presented by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, as well as the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Benin on behalf of the LDCs.

Co- Chairs

I wish to commend you for the remarkable work done so far on this process in coming up with the Program of Work for the Open Working Group and the flexibility you have exercised which has enabled member countries to participate in setting up the agenda in terms of themes and dates of the forthcoming meetings. I wish to re-assure you of our region's continued support in this work.

My region wishes to reiterate that the SDGs we envisage must focus on addressing poverty eradication in all its forms as it is a key challenge to achieving sustainable development at both the regional and national levels. Poverty eradication requires a multidimensional approach cutting across relevant thematic areas and sectors. The progress made on the first MDG of extreme poverty eradication has been slow and remains a major challenge. Women, children and the youth have been particularly affected. Progress on MDG 3, MDG 4 and MDG 5 is equally slow. The MDGs so intricately interconnected could not yield results on one to the exclusivity of the others. Poverty eradication therefore, must not be placed on specific type or definitions of poverty, but must be on collective issues as reviewed in lessons on MDGs and gaps as well as on policies developed in sustainable development. The SDGs therefore must take into consideration key lessons learned especially in relation to stable and continued economic growth, income inequality, unemployment, access to social services including health for all, sustainable energy and science and technological innovations.

The success in the achievement of poverty eradication depends largely on the global community working together in a coherent manner in formulating internationally acceptable and universally applicable SDGs, which resonate with different and heterogeneity contextual realities of the member states.

Co-chairs,

With regard to conceptual issues, in accordance with the Rio+ 20 outcome document, “The Future We Want,” the framework for the SDGs must be broader than the MDGs with balanced approach to addressing issues in an integrated and well coordinated manner embracing all the three pillars of sustainable development. This calls therefore for an interlinked multi-sectoral approach in setting the goals as stated in Paragraph 247 of the Future we want document.

Our region would prefer a careful consideration of SDGs which state the outcomes of Sustainable Development, as well as defined ways of achieving the desired end or set objectives. The combination would assist in ensuring that the integration of the various important thematic areas and cross sectoral issues that are important at each level, to the attainment of Sustainable Development is maintained.

Co Chairs,

Allow me to also reiterate the importance of ensuring universality of the SDGs framework for purposes of driving forward a more focused development agenda that ensure synergies at the local, regional and global levels. From the lessons learnt on the MDGs, we need to build on the strengths such as fostering global partnerships for development. In this context the Rio principles, in particular the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) with the options of equality and equity in the partnership must be considered to ensure effectiveness in implementing the programme of action on SDGs.

Co Chairs,

With regard to priorities on SDGs, the thematic areas in the three pillars must be equally considered. In the economic Pillar, the group places key importance to economic development covering macroeconomic stability, trade, industrial development, infrastructure development for energy and transport, investment growth and agriculture and poverty eradication ,which is crosscutting, while ensuring sustained pro-poor economic growth. In the social pillar, it is important to build on the MDGs with key sectors interrelated to poverty such as water and sanitation, health, education and skills development, agriculture and food security, employment and rural development. In the environmental pillar, it is important to address climate change, desertification, biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. Further, these themes must be discussed in the context of important cross cutting issues such as gender, social protection, and disaster risk management. However given the differences in local, national and regional priorities, levels of interventions, indicators and targets must be differentiated at each level.

Co chairs,

The group believes that each SDG must be accompanied by means of implementation in form of financing, technology transfer and capacity building. The commitments on SDGs in the Post 2015 Development Agenda should be clearly stated and differentiated from the already existing commitments. Further Co Chairs, the time span for the SDGs must be considered in order to also have clear financing and implementation commitments. In addition, consideration on institutional placement of SDGs agenda in the UN and the post 2015 Development Agenda requires consideration and follow up.

Co Chairs,

Last, I wish to emphasize that as we consider the issues of indicators and targets of sustainable development, the goals should not only be quantifiable, but must bear a strong and indispensable element of quality standards. There is no room for hitting off the mark. Lets get it right once and for all.

Let me assure you once again of our region's commitment and support in this process of developing the SDGs.

I thank you.