Side Event in the margins of the HLPF, 7 July 2015

“Moving forward after September 2015 – Implementation in Countries and Review of Progress”

From September onwards, States will begin implementing and reviewing the agenda in their national contexts, often from very different starting points. Some might have years of experience in the implementation of the MDGs or Agenda 21, while others may have to start from scratch. This year’s meeting of the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC, "Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015" offered a welcome opportunity to reflect on what lies ahead for countries as regards implementation of the post 2015-agenda following its adoption in September 2015, and to look further ahead to consider future review of countries’ implementation efforts.

Moderated by Ms. Corrine Woods of the UN Foundation, the side event encouraged States and stakeholders to exchange ideas for implementation and review at the national level: what are States’ first thoughts on implementation? What are their ideas on including civil society and other stakeholders? Are there already ideas with regard to reviewing national policies? Which best practices are applicable in different contexts, and what challenges do countries still face? Which policies have worked and which haven’t?

Ms. Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development offered insights into existing plans to implement the new agenda in Germany, in particular with regard to the national sustainability strategy, and ideas for a global future review mechanism, focusing on a review of national efforts. Mrs. Endah Murniningtyas, Deputy Minister for Natural resources and environment of Indonesia, presented lessons learned from her country’s experiences with implementing the MDGs as well as ideas on the way forward with regard to implementing the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development.

In the ensuing discussion, representatives of Member States and civil society underlined the necessity to gain a head start in implementation, beginning inclusive consultative processes early and ensuring a continuous review of implementation measures. Other contributions highlighted the importance of capacity building with regard to implementation and review, the need to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns globally, as well as the relevance of including children and youths in the process of implementing and reviewing the agenda.