

**South Africa's intervention at the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group  
on Sustainable Development Goals:  
*Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions,*  
4 April 2014.**

**Mr Co-chair,**

- South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Group. In addition we fully support the intervention by Ethiopia particularly on the issue of peace and security that should feature prominently in the formulation process.
- When the African Heads of State and Government decided to include *peace and security* as one of the pillars and enablers for the continent's development priorities, that signified an acknowledgement of the crucial inter-linkage and enabling relationship between peace and security and development;
- Peace and Security, Human Rights and Development remain the three pillars of the UN System and these pillars are inter-linked, one cannot be achieved without the other. We therefore need a holistic approach to address challenges associated with these three pillars;
- South Africa continues to be concerned with violent and armed conflicts around the world, in particular on the African Continent. These conflicts clearly have an impact on peace and security as well as development aspirations of the affected and neighbouring countries;

**Mr Co-chair,**

- This is not about the securitization of development. We maintain that peace and stability are critical for the reduction of poverty, the least developed countries and sustainable development;
- We therefore emphasize the importance of addressing challenges of peace and security, given their implications on the development agenda. It is South Africa's view that "countries cannot develop their economies if scarce resources are invested in destructive conflicts or if a lack of stability deters local and foreign investors from harnessing the talent and potential of a country's citizens". In fact some use already the issue of peace and security or lack thereof as a conditionality and this is the reason we need to discuss these issues in the development context also.
- We reiterate our firm conviction that democracy, good governance and the rule of law at both national and international levels are essential for

sustainable development and that institutions that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic are needed at all levels;

- In this regard, national ownership and international support and partnership, where requested could provide a key foundation for peaceful and stable societies as well as play an enabling role for sustainable development.
- Therefore, Mr Co-chair the above-mentioned issues should be clearly reflected in the narrative that will seek to introduce the goals.

Thank you!