



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

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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

ON BEHALF OF

THE SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP

ON

FOCUS AREAS 1-6

AT THE

11TH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP (OWG)

ON

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

5TH MAY – 9TH MAY, 2014

NEW YORK
5TH May, 2014

Co Chairs,

I have the honour to present this statement on behalf of the 32 Land-locked Developing Countries group.

Let me start by thanking the Co Chairs for conducting the work of the Open Working Group in a commendable manner and for the progress and efforts so far. I thank the Co-Chairs for the revised documents shared with us. I further wish to assure the Co chairs of our full support in the deliberations to ensure that we successfully deliver on our task to develop Goals that are inclusive and advance the wellbeing and welfare of humanity , which also focus on countries with special needs, challenges and vulnerabilities like our own countries in order to make the world a better place for all.

Co Chairs,

The working document forms a good basis of further elaboration and clear specification of SDGs and Targets. The group therefore further reiterates the need for the goals to address and highlight the fact that LLDCs are a group of countries in a special situation faced with special needs, challenges and vulnerability, a status recognized and underscored in the outcome document of Rio+20 document the future we want.

Co Chairs,

In order to achieve a balanced and inclusive approach for all, the international community's obligations to address special needs of LLDCs require special attention. I therefore call for the recognition and inclusion in the specific SDGs and targets clear indications that addresses the special needs and challenges faced by the LLDCs in achieving their development goals.

With regard to the Working document, the group proposes that a chapeaux be included after the goals and targets are agreed upon to clearly state the principles, interlinkages of the three pillars and dimensions of Sustainable development and special consideration of countries in special needs, in line with

the agreed upon aspects and components of the Rio + 20 outcome document, The Future We Want.

Coming to the focus areas in the revised working document, I wish to request for inclusion and correction of references for the LLDCs proposals, as were made at the last session, including in the annex or compilation document as was indicated to in our letter to the Co Chairs on this matter.

On poverty eradication, shared prosperity and reducing inequality, the group in particular welcomes and supports Focus Area 1; and the proposal of a goal to End Poverty for all in all its forms everywhere. On the targets, the group proposes that appropriate Means of Implementation be included. I wish to indicate that further elaboration on the Means of Implementation should target ending poverty in LLDCs with particular consideration of their special needs and challenges which should include;

- Production diversification and value addition in LLDCs through capacity building and technology transfer to ensure competitiveness and performance of LLDCs on international markets.

The group wishes to reiterate and underscore the multidimensional nature of poverty and states that implementation of goals in all focus areas must contribute to the ending of poverty and in particular, high poverty levels in LLDCs whose special needs and challenges especially when addressed, will have high positive impact on the fight against poverty. A balance of well linked targets from the social, economic and environment pillars of sustainable development should therefore, be aligned to this goal.

1. In addition, integration of goals and targets in the three pillars could be elaborated in the chapeaux to emphasize and reflect the overarching nature of the goal of poverty eradication. In view of this, I also wish to indicate that with respect to Focus areas 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the group of LLDCs is in support of the standalone goals for each of the focus areas.

The preparatory work for the Second UN conference on LLDCs that has been done so far has underscored the importance of structural transformation, increased agricultural and industrial productivity, and expansion of service sector have a great potential to circumvent the challenges of landlockedness and help improve economic growth in the LLDCs. However their limited human capacity is affecting their ability. The enhanced development of human skills and education are critical. In this regard, enhanced development of human skills and education in particular post-primary education are critical for improving agricultural productivity, fostering industrial development, expanding the services sector and technological innovativeness in LLDCs – these need to be reflected in the new goals. We therefore support the goal on Sustainable Agriculture, food security and nutrition and the targets on diversification and value addition to agriculture production.

2. I wish to indicate that each focus area requires appropriate Means of implementation as they are enablers of poverty reduction. The group however welcomes the specific and stand-alone goal on Means of Implementation in order for SDGs to be truly effective and call that it be maintained.

I wish to assure the Co Chairs of the LLDCs group support and will make further specific comments with respect to focus areas 7,8,9,10,11 and 15 later when they are discussed.

I thank you.