

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals - Session 11
South Africa's intervention on Focus Area 16: "Peaceful and inclusive societies,
Rule of Law and capable institutions
9 May 2014

Mr Co-chair,

"Humanity will not enjoy security without development, it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights." This is what the 2005 report of the then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said when it reaffirmed the inter-linkages between security, development and human rights.

The Millennium Declaration which should be foundational for the post-2015 development agenda also reaffirms the importance of the inter-linkages among the three pillars of the United Nations.

In view of the challenges we face, we see the need to reaffirm that Peace and Security, Human Rights and Development remain the three pillars of the UN System and that these pillars remain inter-linked. In addressing the existing global challenges it is important that we adopt a holistic approach that takes into account these inter-linkages among the three components of the UN.

The on-going violent and armed conflicts around the world, in particular on the African Continent continue to be a source of concern. As we pursue our development aspirations we must be cognizant that conflict ridden societies are unlikely to meet their development aspirations if no adequate attention and resources are deployed to deal with conflict and post conflict reconstruction. Without the necessary investment in post-conflict reconstruction programs there is always a possibility of backsliding into conflict situations.

As we know the CAP seeks to acknowledge the importance of peace and security and its link to development. In this regard we need to continue to engage international partners to play a significant role in these endeavours.

The issue of peace and security thus continues to be of paramount importance. Those issues should also incorporate transparency, good governance and the rule of law.

Mr Co-chair, As we consider the sustainable development agenda, the root causes of conflict, which often relate to underdevelopment, have to be addressed. Achieving stable and peaceful societies should be considered as an important part of sustainable development. What is significant is the relationship between peaceful, stable and non-violent societies, as well as rule of law at all levels and respect for human rights and development.

Thank you