

Statement of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by Mr. Ayodele Odusola, MDG Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP/RBA, at the Africa's Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, Experts segment, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 31 October to 2 November 2013.

Protocol

UNDP is pleased to be part of this consultative forum on Sustainable Development Goals organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. This is building on the efforts initiated since 2011 by the foregoing institutions in strong collaboration with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. The outcome of this consultative meeting will be an important input into the African Union Common Position on Post 2015 Development Agenda being steered by ten African presidents (Liberia, Guinea, Chad, Gabon, Namibia, South Africa, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Algeria and Mauritania); chaired by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Your Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, sustainable development has become a new pathway for growth and development globally. This new paradigm of development tries to correct the non-inclusive approach that focuses mostly on economic aspect of development at the expense of social and environmental considerations. It is a development process that appreciates the importance of social inclusiveness and protect boundary of the planet earth. It essentially focuses on production and consumption activities of today that do not compromise the welfare of the future generation. Because human development is the reason d'état of UNDP, sustainable development is a critical pillar of our mandate. We believe in development that is economically inclusive, socially responsive and equitable, and environmentally friendly.

The United Nations System has been at forefront of this new approach of development. Some of the events that have culminated into what we have today include the Earth Summit in June 1992, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August-September 2002, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) known as Rio+20 in June 2012, among others.

Distinguish ladies and gentlemen, our development aspiration for the future must be the one that addresses the complex relationships among economics, social and environment. Africa needs to promote efficient and resilient production and consumption systems that minimize resource depletion and degradation, and substantially curtail greenhouse gas emissions. This calls for efficient ways of:

- Managing our natural resources – the recent wave of new discovery makes this more imperative now than ever;
- Ensuring our agricultural practices are environmentally-friendly and socially responsive. This includes managing the rising wave of large scale land investment in Africa that is not only shifting the burden of water stress to Africa but likely to aggravate environmental degradation and social exclusion in the continent if not effectively managed;

- Promoting a diversified and efficient transport system based on inclusive and cheap renewable energy that takes advantage of Africa's unused solar, wind and waste resources without creating dependency syndromes on associated technology;
- Ensuring benefits of growth are used to drive social inclusion by promoting poverty eradication, reduction of inequalities, and advancement of human capital especially in such areas as education, health and gender empowerment;
- Promoting efficient utilization of resources from natural endowment to reverse the trend of resource-conflicts in the continent and use such resources to promote sustainable adaptation strategy;
- Ensuring our economic and social activities reinforce protection of Africa's environmental resources including biodiversity and ecosystems; and
- Calling on advanced nations to support the African adaptation strategy in a way that promotes a resilient continent.

This event should not end here. Apart from its outcome serving as inputs into the African High Level Committee's report, it should also feed into the intergovernmental process established by the President of the General Assembly to steer the discussion on Sustainable Development Goals – the Open Working Group. The fact that Kenya is one of the two Co-chairs provides a better opportunity for Africa's view to be heard on this issue.

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to enjoin you to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss pertinent African issues that should be included in this global sustainable development agenda.

Thank you.