

Statement by H.E. Tuvako Manongi, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations in New York on the Intergovernmental Processes defining post-2015 development agenda

**Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of my colleague, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations in New York who is the co-chair of the Intergovernmental Open Working Group on the development of global SDGs.

Ambassador Kamau was invited to give an overview of the post Rio+20 follow up processes of which the SDGs is a critical component. However, he could not attend due to exigencies of duty.

The Rio+20 conference produced a rich harvest of processes. These include but are not limited to (i) the Open Working Group (OWG) to prepare a proposal on sustainable development goals, (ii) the Expert Committee on a sustainable development financing strategy, (iii) the High-level Political Forum and reforms of Economic and Social Council and (iv) technology facilitation mechanism for sustainable development.

The outcomes of these processes and the way in which they are articulated will have an important bearing on the discussions to begin in September next year (2014) in the General Assembly, on the post-2015 development agenda. Therefore, let me briefly mention each in turn.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Open Working Group on SDGs was one of the most significant outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. As follow up, the conference tasked the General Assembly to constitute an intergovernmental Open Working Group which involves the participation of relevant stakeholders to define the SDGs and present to the Assembly for consideration at its 69th session.

The SDGs are the objectives that will drive the post-2015 development agenda.

In contrast to the MDGs which mostly focused on developing countries, the SDGs must be universal in nature and must not leave anyone behind.

The SDGs must not only address poverty eradication in the context of post-2015 development agenda but must endeavor to achieve universal human development and dignity while learning to respect nature and the earth's fragile environment and ecosystems.

Until now, the Open Working Group on SDGs has covered almost half of the stocktaking on the thematic areas. We are now left with four more sessions to be held from later this month to February 2014. The past sessions focused mainly on the poverty eradication and social development agenda. During those consultations there was broad consensus on the need to finish unfinished business of the MDGs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are now moving to a series of sessions that will focus on the economic and environmental agendas. We can probably expect less consensus. But we heard the recurrent message that to make poverty eradication and social progress irreversible, we must focus more on the economic and the environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

One would wonder as to why we should place an emphasis on economic agenda. The answer is plain and simple: it is only through stable, dynamic and resilient economies that our people will create wealth and employment opportunities, security and increase prospects of a better life for their children.

And the clear message we have heard on the environment is that science points to the urgent need to tackle challenges like climate change, which if not slowed may cause havoc on economies in the next coming decades. This will hurt the poor and most vulnerable first and most.

Another recurrent message heard in the OWG is that the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda need to be transformative. This reflects the

strong sense that we are at an historical juncture where we can, if governments show the collective political will, chart a new, sustainable development course which will be very different from the path that has brought us to where we are today.

The two main features of that new path will be: Firstly, growth which is far more inclusive and which narrows rather than widens inequalities – both across and within countries. Secondly, growth which is far less intensive in the use of the earth's resources and less polluting of the earth's environment.

One important point to remember about the SDGs – which differentiates them from the MDGs – is that they are meant for all countries. This has to be true, since the challenges of sustainable development are universal in character. Therefore, all countries need to contribute to mitigating them in accordance with principles of fairness and equity.

Also, there has been much discussion of the need to tailor global goals to differing national and regional priorities and circumstances. Conversely, it is important for the regions to work to shape global goals that speak as far as possible to their realities and challenges.

For a region like Africa, for example, high rates of poverty, food insecurity and unemployment are relevant facts which makes sustained economic growth and industrialization together with clear goals and targets of achieving them particularly pertinent.

Let me turn again to the process. After February 2014, the OWG will begin its deliberations on the proposed set of SDGs and the accompanying narrative to frame the goals.

Therefore, the period from March to August 2014 will be an intensive period of discussions, debates and negotiations hopefully leading to consensus on an SDG proposal to be presented to the General Assembly in September 2014. Discussions on the post-2015 development agenda will commence on the same month.

Expert Committee on a financing strategy for sustainable development

The intergovernmental expert committee on financing is not open like the OWG but rather exclusive to its membership. It is co-chaired by Nigeria and Finland. The members of the committee reflect a broad range of expertise covering conventional development finance, climate finance and other relevant areas.

The Rio+20 outcome document was clear that the financing strategy proposed by this Committee – or rather the proposed options – should be designed with a view to supporting achievement of sustainable development goals. So, the work of this committee and that of the OWG need to be coordinated and aligned.

The committee has had one meeting in August, and its next meeting will be in December this year. The co-chairs of the OWG will be invited to present the Group's work to the Committee during planned informal morning meetings before the Committee begins its formal sessions.

The work of the committee is divided into 3 clusters: cluster 1 is about an assessment of financing needs and of the international and national environments to promote effective financing for sustainable development. This will be the focus of the December meeting.

Cluster 2 will look at existing sources and flows of financing with a view to identifying gaps and possibilities for more effective resource mobilization as well as for achieving greater coherence and effectiveness. Its work will begin in December and carry over to the next meeting in March.

Cluster 3 will look at institutional reform options to strengthen the international financial architecture for sustainable development, including public finance, private finance and its leveraging through mixed public-private finance.

The document to be produced by the committee, by September 2014, should present options for a sustainable development financing strategy. It will be one that encompasses both traditional development finance and the new financing agenda to meet pressing global challenges. It will also address all key sources of finance, public and private, domestic and international.

I am aware of the mention of the possibility of a global conference on financing for development in the first quarter of 2015. If this conference takes place as expected, the Committee's report would constitute a useful input to its deliberations.

High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

The GA resolution that defined the methods of work and organizational aspects of the forum gives it a central role in the follow-up of the post-2015 development agenda. It also gives a critical role to regional processes and the regional commissions in the preparations for and the follow-up to the deliberations in the HLPF.

Some regions are already discussing the possibility of establishing their own regional HLPFs to be linked to the global forum; to contribute to setting its agenda, as well as to carrying forward the decisions taken in the global forum at the regional level.

The inaugural session of the HLPF was held on 24 September at the highest level, under the auspices of the General Assembly. The participants voiced their high expectations for the role of the Forum in monitoring and reporting progress on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

It is expected that regional preparatory meetings for the HLPF – the next session of which will be held under the auspices of ECOSOC in mid-2014 – will be organized by the regional commissions in partnership with other stakeholders. It is particularly important to have a discussion at this time of what a transformative post-2015 development agenda could look like from an African perspective.

This discussion, should it happen in the first quarter of next year, would still be in time to serve as a valuable input into the reports of both the OWG on SDGs and the expert committee on financing. It is also expected that the regional commissions would play a leading role in the national reviews of progress on SDGs and MOI within their respective regions.

After 2016, the HLPF will build on ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review and turn the voluntary national reporting process into a major avenue for monitoring progress and supporting countries in their efforts to achieve the

SDGs. It will also mobilize and deploy means of implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to that end.

Hon. Ministers

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish to talk to comment on the technology facilitation mechanism. The technology facilitation is the one remaining piece of the puzzle that is critically important to ensuring progress of all countries towards sustainable development. The Secretary-General has been asked by member States to table options for strengthening technology facilitation and he has done so in his report A/68/310.

It is now in the hands of Member States to consider the 10 recommendations contained there, and to decide which of these they wish to adopt in what time frame. Certainly, enhanced technological innovation and cooperation will be necessary to be able to implement a truly transformative post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.