

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR DAVID DONOGHUE

PGA's Stock-taking event on Post-2015 Agenda, 11 September 2014

Madame Moderator, ladies and gentlemen.

I associate myself at the outset with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union.

I congratulate the President of the General Assembly for convening this important series of debates on the post-2015 agenda. Amidst the intensive negotiations of the Open Working Group, these high level events provided a very valuable space in which all stakeholders could refine their thinking on how we should approach some of the most pressing aspects of the post-2015 agenda.

I warmly congratulate the PRs of Hungary and Kenya for their skill, patience and determination in stewarding the Open Working Group process to a successful conclusion.

This process delivered a unique and ambitious outcome of which we can all be proud. The document which Member States produced captures very effectively what the international community must do in order to address the great global challenges of eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing inequality; promoting women's rights; tackling climate change; ensuring that economic development is both inclusive and sustainable; and promoting accountable governance, peaceful societies and the rule of law.

This outcome is all the more remarkable when one considers the complexity of the OWG's remit, which required for the first time, that Sustainable Development Goals should be universally applicable and should reflect both the sustainable development and development cooperation agendas.

The novel composition of the Group as well as the open working methods which it used and its strong interaction with civil society clearly helped to bring about this outcome.

We now have a proposed set of goals and targets which are action-oriented, global in nature and universally applicable...and which at the same time take into account different national priorities and capacities. This is a very solid achievement as we go into the intergovernmental negotiations.

It will be important to find a balance between ensuring that the goals and targets which are approved in September 2015 as part of the post-2015 agenda are clear enough for the man or woman in the street to understand but at the same time avoid the danger of oversimplifying complex issues and challenges. We have also heard many countries comment on the optimum number of goals and targets.

We also need to ensure that the goals and targets which are finally adopted are compatible with international law and are technically sound. In this regard, we need to develop appropriate indicators supporting the goals and targets.

We must also consider how best to ensure coherence between the post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations and the Financing for Development negotiations.

We look forward to the Secretary General's synthesis report which will serve as an input to the intergovernmental negotiations. I expect that the content of the OWG's proposal will be well reflected in that report. The report will also provide an opportunity to look at issues such as how to make the post-2015 framework more easily communicable to ordinary people around the world and more easily implementable at the country level. The Deputy Secretary General spoke this morning of enhancing what has been achieved in the Open Working Group rather than undermining it; I very much share that perspective. We see the Secretary General's synthesis report drawing together all of the inputs and providing an integrated perspective of benefit to us all in preparation of the intergovernmental negotiations.

Madame Moderator, collectively we have a great responsibility to produce a post-2015 agenda which will help to eradicate poverty and to achieve a sustainable future for all.

That is the expectation the world has of us and I am confident we will all rise to that challenge.

Ireland has engaged actively and constructively in this process and we look forward to working with all colleagues in the same spirit.

Thank you.