

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT - *“CHANGING APPROACHES TO POLICY MAKING: THE ROLE OF THE SDGs”* (30 June 2015)

SDGs must reinforce integrated planning while integrating the 3 pillars of sustainable development. There should be sound mechanisms for monitoring and tracking of progress made in achieving developmental objectives, realising the unfinished business of the MDGs. This should prevent duplication of reporting mechanisms and to place further resource burdens on domestic GDP. They should be anchored on the principles of social inclusion, ensuring that poverty eradication remains the overarching objective of achieving sustainable development. Taking into account that the post - 2015 Development Agenda should be inclusive and transformative, this can be achieved by mobilizing economic, social and environmental action to ensure that we addresses entrenched forms of all poverty and to meet the aspirations of 8 billion people by 2030.

SDGs should encompass profound economic transformation by ensuring a rapid shift of sustainable and consumption patterns to create more value and inclusive growth. In this regard, exclusive focus should be on diversifying economies to enable equal opportunities for women, youth and the disabled by creating employment and improve the standards of living.

South Africa calls for joint thinking and implementation of development outcomes, interwoven by a coordinated and coherent policy and planning mechanisms across government. In this regard, there should be improvement of mechanisms for cooperation and partnerships between the government, business and civil society.

As a country, we can offer our lessons learned when we developed a National Development Plan 2030 entitled: *“Our Future-Make it Work”* which involved all sectors-government, business and broader society to address systemic challenges of development and issues such as poverty, inequality and unemployment are given sharp focus and prioritisation. This plan advocated for a cluster system which is a multi-dimensional approach to reporting and ensures broader consultation which drew thousands of people, which included labour, business, religious leaders, non-profit organisations, citizens amongst others and bottom-up approach in terms of reporting and consultation.