

June 30 (PM)

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AS LEAD DISCUSSANT IN THE HLPF PANEL DISCUSSION ON

REGIONAL SUPPORT TO NATIONAL ACTION:

**HOW CAN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW BE STRENGTHENED
THROUGH THE REGIONAL LEVEL?**

New York, 30 June 2015

Madame Chair, Madame Moderator, Distinguished Panellists, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here today. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity of sharing with you some perspectives on how the regional dimension can effectively strengthen national implementation and review of the post-2015 development agenda. I would like to thank the panellists who have acknowledged the role of the UN Regional Commissions in this regard and thank Member States for their continued trust in the Commissions.

First, let me emphasize that the transformative, ambitious and universal nature of the post-2015 development agenda will require us to do things differently because it has set itself apart from all previous development efforts: it has peoples' needs at its core; and it calls for a balanced integration of the different dimensions of sustainable, effective follow-up and review, and a strengthened global partnership. So can we make these things possible in

practical terms? The answer seems to partly lie in the regional dimension because it is conducive to enhancing national ownership, promoting collaborative approaches and building trust among States. These are imperative requirements for the success of the new agenda.

With respect to a balanced integration, it is not only about the different dimensions of sustainable development, but also about maximizing the synergies among the seventeen goals and integrating them into different national contexts and realities. The regional dimension can help to address this. For example, the multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral perspectives on development, for which the UN Regional Commissions are well-known, can effectively assist countries by providing them with policy options to overcome “siloed” approach to development.

Because of their inter-governmental nature and their knowledge of regional circumstances and specificities, the UN Regional Commissions can also effectively assist Member States with the adaptation of the SDGs to their circumstances and realities. It is at the regional level, and through the Regional Commissions’ role in tracking the MDGs, that interesting findings were made which highlighted the importance of quality of services delivered as much as quantity and pointed to the need of unmasking inequalities in the achievement of MDG goals and targets at the sub-regional and sub-national levels - which

has significantly enriched the debate that followed on the SDGs. In the Arab region, it is a well-known fact that conflict, occupation and terrorism are major impediments to sustainable development, and therefore, none of the SDGs can be attained without addressing peace and security.

The Regional Coordination Mechanisms, led by the Regional Commissions and which seek to enhance coordination among UN agencies and non-UN entities at the regional level, are an effective means of supporting Member countries to achieve greater policy coherence in the implementation of the new agenda.

With respect to strengthening the global partnership for development and facilitating the means of implementation, the regional dimension can catalyse South-South cooperation and facilitate partnerships through participatory fora like the regional forums on sustainable development. The UN Regional Commissions also have a role to play in terms of capacity-building on the SDGs and enhancing Member States' statistical capabilities for follow-up and review.

This brings me to the point of how the regional dimension is bound to play a significant role in the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda by providing a valuable vertical link between the national and the global levels. The regional dimension can add value to national

reviews by aggregating the information and identifying trends and gaps which can then be conveyed to the global level. Existing regional bodies and mechanisms like the African Peer Review Mechanism can be useful to this end. The UN Regional Commissions' subsidiary bodies and platforms, including multi-stakeholder ones like the regional forums on sustainable development, can be useful to identify the best means of approaching follow-up and review for each region.

In conclusion, and with a view of strengthening the regional dimension in support of the post-2015 development agenda, I would like to submit, for your consideration, the following elements:

First: The role of the UN Regional Commissions in holding regional consultations on the issues of the global development agenda is key, as was demonstrated in preparing Member States for Rio +20 and in the FFD process;

Second: The regional forums on sustainable development, convened by the UN Regional Commissions with regional partners, are well placed as multi-stakeholder platforms for ensuring integration, coherence and linkage to the national and global levels, particularly in the follow-up and review architecture.

Third: Adequate vertical linkages between the national and the global, through the regional level should be established, including by enhancing the dynamics

between the regional forums on sustainable development and the HLPF.

Thank you.