



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Delivered by

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On

*Thematic Area: Follow-up and review on Financing for Development
and Means of Implementation*

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Thematic Area: Follow-up and review on Financing for Development and Means of Implementation
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Distinguished Co-Facilitators, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

In this statement for this topic, Mr. Chair, I reiterate 5 issues and obstacles which are aligned to the statement of G77 and China as expressed by the distinguished representative of South Africa and also by other Member States. I think these issues are essential and relevant for the follow up and review work towards the coherence of processes that will ensure the successful implementation of the eventual SDGs.

The first obstacle relates to ensuring long-term political commitment to sustainable development, taking into account the diverse circumstances, capacities and priorities of countries. Political commitment can be gauged by enactment of important policy instruments, implementation of priority programs and projects, and budgetary allocations and public expenditures on SD plans and actions. Strong governance structure and effective institutions at all levels, communities, country, regional and global, are critical to achieve the vision of sustainable development, and to effectively and efficiently integrate its three pillars.

In the Philippines, this political commitment to promote sustainable development was initiated with the establishment of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development way back in 1992. The Council which is composed of representatives of government agencies, private sector, civil society and a few other stakeholders provides the mechanism for attaining the principles of SD and assures its integration in the Philippine national policies, plans and programs that will involve all sectors of the society. It focuses on issues that deal with the interplay of social, economic, and environmental concerns rather than solely sectoral matters that are already performed by the existing departments and agencies of the government.

The second challenge relates to financing and the need to put in place an effective and efficient expenditure framework to support SD plans and policies, both on the global and local level. The coherence of the FfD and the Post 2015 frameworks that we have been discussing is one way to respond to this issue. In the local arena, it is necessary that the link among planning, programming and budgeting is strengthened in order to deliver a more comprehensive development plan implementation. In many countries, the Philippines included, functions and responsibilities are decentralized and devolved to local governments without accompanying resources and legislative powers. Since the success of an SD rests on its proper implementation, it is crucial that government SD programs, projects and activities are provided sufficient funding either from the government or from development partners or both.

The third is the need to strengthen capacities especially local communities, stakeholders including local government executives, who will directly be working towards the attainment of the SD goals. This brings me to the need to enhance investment in human capital. It is well recognized that human capital is a key driver of economic growth. Investments should focus specifically on education/skills development program, health assistance, and the like. Again I stress the need to focus on developing and strengthening the youths as they are the future stewards of governments and natural resources.

The continued international partnership and cooperation could not be over emphasized for the successful implementation of the Post 2015 agenda. This is my fourth point. This cooperation should go beyond the aid agenda but also to further promote technical cooperation to serve as venue to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge/capacities, transfer environmental technologies, share policy successes and best

practices, among others. We have heard and debated on measures to develop an effective and efficient technology transfer mechanism. Let's us all work now to put such mechanism in place.

The fifth and last obstacle, Mr. Chair, relates to strengthening institutions especially in relation to the efficient conduct of monitoring, evaluation and review of SD implementation and progress. And again I stress here the need for good quality data and information for better goal setting and as a communication and outreach tool for engaging stakeholders. The participation of all stakeholders in decision-making, implementation and monitoring and review of progress will be most helpful. We note, therefore, the important role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in the post-2015 processes to serve as platform to ensure coherence and synergies across policy actions and in rallying for political support from developed countries and international financing institutions in mobilizing the means to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

Additionally, Mr. Chair, I underscore the need to begin processes by localizing sustainable development goals and mainstreaming them in local and national plans and programs and done in such a way that aligns goals, objectives and strategies at all levels, and across various sectors and territories. It is vital for government entities to be vertically integrated to effectively achieve goals across space and facilitate implementation at all levels. It is also necessary to establish processes to ensure the meaningful participation of a wide range of entities and stakeholders within and outside government. These processes will not only facilitate public awareness regarding sustainable development issues, but will help improve the quality, accountability and impact of sustainable development plans and actions. It should be borne in mind that sustainable communities make for a sustainable country, and sustainable countries make for a sustainable world.

Again, I convey our country's appreciation to our Co-facilitators and to all those who helped organize this important event that I think has provided guidance on many critical issues that impact how we proceed to attain the vision of a world that is prosperous but with high regard to protect the environment, just, equitable and inclusive.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and again a pleasant day to all colleague Member States.