Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda
22. - 25. June 2015, New York
German Statement on Follow-up and Review
by Mr. Stephan Contius,
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

Mr. Co-Facilitator, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and I would now like to add the following points in my national capacity.

My delegation very much welcomes the chapter of the zero draft dealing with the follow-up and review of the post 2015 agenda. You, Co-Facilitators, have done an excellent job outlining the **basic tenets of the follow-up and review architecture** which we will need to agree on in September while **leaving enough flexibility** for states and regions to flesh out the details according to their own requirements and preferences.

Let me take the opportunity to also acknowledge the important work and deliberations of those UN member states especially dedicated to this issue.

We **welcome the three-tiered approach** taken with the HLPF as the apex of a global network of review processes. As we have said before, we strongly feel that the review exercise should **not only inform us on how we are doing** – at national, regional and global levels – towards the achievement of the post-2015 agenda, but will **also enable participating states to showcase best practices, lessons learnt and challenges** in implementation as well as allow states to clearly define their needs.

We would therefore like to see **language on the benefits of mutual learning through review** included in the principles of review as well as the paragraphs on all three levels of review.

Concerning the **national level**, building on existing reporting and planning instruments, such as national sustainable development strategies, makes perfect sense. As states are

accountable first and foremost to their citizens, it will be paramount that the reviews of progress towards the achievement of the post-2015 agenda at national level will be **inclusive** and involve civil society, academia, the private sector and parliaments, among others, as set out in paragraph 5 of this chapter of the zero draft.

My delegation would like to see a **link between the national and global levels of review**, however, and believes that the outcome of the national-level reviews should be submitted to the HLPF for this purpose. Civil society and the UN system should also be able to submit reports on national and regional implementation of the post-2015 agenda directly to the HLPF.

Concerning the **regional level**, we welcome the flexibility given to regions to choose the regional forum **most suitable for mutual learning**, rather than being too prescriptive. We look forward to discussing progress in establishing regional reviews at next year's HLPF, as you suggested in paragraph 7.

Turning to the **global level**, we believe that the approach taken in paragraphs 8-16 sets us on the right path. In particular, we welcome the approach taken in paragraph 10 to include **thematic reviews** of progress at the HLPF in line with the cycle and work of the HLPF, as included in paragraph 10.

The **Global Sustainable Development Report** should also have a thematic focus on issues which should be brought to the attention of our heads of state and government at the HLPF under the auspices of the GA. The annual SDG Progress Report will help us assess where we stand globally on all goals.

While participation of states in the review at global level should be voluntary, we feel that **all states should participate in the review at global level at least twice** until 2030 in order to reap the maximum benefits from the exercise.

The **involvement of Major Groups and civil society**, the private sector, the scientific community and the UN system at all levels of the review architecture will be crucial for us to be able to get the full picture and truly know whether we are on track towards

achievement of the goals. Therefore we very much welcome that this is clearly stated in the zero draft.

Co-Facilitators, we believe that the zero draft **gives us the nuts and bolts** for a review architecture that will be truly beneficial to all states. We can discuss and agree on the **details of the review processes**, particularly at regional and global level, **after the September 2015 summit**.

In this regard, we welcome the zero draft's approach to request to the Secretary General to prepare guidelines for national reports and review processes as well as to provide recommendations on the organizational arrangements for state-led reviews at the HLPF under ECOSOC. We **look forward to discussing the Secretary General's suggestions** with Member States at next year's HLPF.