



# IRELAND

Statement by

Mr Alan Kelly, T.D.  
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at the

High Level Political Forum

New York, 7 July 2015

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr President.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made in this general debate by the EU.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to note that Ireland was honoured that our Ambassador to the UN was invited to co-facilitate the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations.

We commend Ambassador Donoghue and his team for the work that they have done, and we are grateful for the generous support which both co-facilitators have received from all parties during the constructive negotiations.

Ireland fully supports the post-2015 development agenda. The agreement which our Heads of State and Government expect to finalise at the Summit in September will be a milestone in re-defining our relationship with planet earth, and our solidarity in leaving no one behind.

It is a huge task that will entail a co-ordinated whole-of-government approach. However, we are committed to the task, and to mobilising a national response that will embed the spirit and substance of the post-2015 agenda across the entire socio-economic spectrum.

As a major agriculture and food production economy, Ireland is already addressing one of the major emerging issues. Sustainable agriculture and food security are central considerations for the post-2015 agenda – finding and implementing a way forward will be key to a successful transformation agenda.

In this context, we look forward to the HLPF becoming a space which allows for exchanges of information on best practice on post-2015 implementation and for mutual learning, based on country experiences through effective monitoring, accountability and review.

Ireland shares the view expressed by many others that the HLPF should focus on reviewing overall global progress, based on a common set of global indicators, while also drawing on best practice at the national level, through voluntary presentations by Individual States of their national implementation results.

The aim of an effective review process is not about naming and shaming poor implementation but rather about sharing best practice, helping to identify gaps at the global level and suggesting solutions.

In the same way that implementation must be evidence based, so must the review of implementation: in this context, the Forum's mandate to strengthen the Science-Policy interface is key. We see the Global Sustainable Development Report as a valuable contribution to this process, but the HLPF should be able to draw on all credible scientific sources relevant to its discussions on an ongoing basis.

And as many speakers have highlighted, political engagement is indispensable to driving implementation of what is a transformative set of goals and targets. We have a responsibility and duty as Ministers and leaders to deliver on this.

To ensure that this high-level political engagement is maintained, I believe that what is needed is a HLPF with an action-orientated agenda, which does not duplicate the work of other fora, and which has a clear programme-of-work for each of its four-year cycles.

The Forum must also be inclusive. As I said yesterday, citizen ownership and engagement is vital to successful post-2015 implementation. Our citizens and wider society are not merely beneficiaries of the Agenda but must be partners and participants in its implementation as well.

Mr President, as has been said many times before, 2015 has the potential to be an historic year in shaping global development. But when agreements are reached in Addis later this month, here in New York in September and in Paris in December, that will only be the beginning of a global journey towards achieving sustainability in its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

The goals we have set ourselves are as ambitious as any agreed previously by the global community, with a breadth of required actions never before attempted. Achieving this transformational shift will be challenging, to say the least.

There will no doubt be set-backs along the way, both for individual states and for us all collectively. But I firmly believe that a High Level Political Forum which effectively monitors global implementation, and which articulates a positive vision and tangible outcomes of the Post-2015 Agenda to the wider world, will help us achieve our collective goals of providing a decent standard of living for all our citizens, while protecting our planet and making sure that no one is left behind.

Thank you.