



ITALY

Statement

By

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**General Debate of the High-Level Segment
of the Economic and Social Council**

United Nations

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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Mr President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by Commissioner Vella on behalf of the EU and its Member States and would like to further emphasize some points.

We need leadership, ambition and an effective structure to guide the transition towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. Such a structure would need to have HLPF at its peak. In particular, the HLPF should be the primary forum at global level for a multi-tiered monitoring, accountability and review mechanism of the Post-2015 Agenda and its SDGs.

Realizing an integrated, universal and transformative approach as embedded in the SDGs proposal and in the current draft of the Post-2015 Agenda, entails the involvement of the UN system as a whole. As Assistant Secretary General Thomas Gass has highlighted last week, the Post-2015 Agenda and its SDGs should not become a “silo” in themselves. That is why it is crucial that the HLPF working modalities incorporate the entire UN system, building in particular on the ECOSOC integrated segment and on the Development Cooperation Forum. More work and discussions need to take place to further clarify all the details of such a complex structure.

In this context, we welcome the ECOSOC dialogue on the long-term positioning of the UN development system. As never before, policies, field work, cooperation activities and financial flows need to be aligned so that the same sustainable development goals are pursued by all.

It is indeed very important that the door of the HLPF stays open, so that the full extent of the deliberations contained in Resolution 67/290 are fulfilled. Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the Major Groups, other stakeholders and the civil society at large for the significant contribution they have provided to this HLPF session.

During this HLPF, we have learned extensively. Allow me to recall some issues that are important to us.

Strengthening the sub-national, national and regional level for measuring the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda is very important. At regional level, peer review processes could be implemented according to the best practices that each region has developed. On science-policy interface, we support the ongoing efforts by the scientific community to move from fragmentation to multidisciplinary and believe that the future Global Sustainable Development Report should measure progress towards SDGs building also on available UN reports, in particular the UNEP GEO 6. Furthermore, the HLPF deliberations under the auspices of UNGA should react to GSDR findings.

Italy stands by the commitments made at the Samoa Conference and, together with other partners, is working on strengthening the cooperation with PSIDS

under the Partnership Environmental Programme. In collaboration with the UN, next October, at the EXPO in Milan we will organize a Ministerial Conference of all the Small Islands Developing States, with a view to assess the progress made since the Samoa Conference. Last month, at the EXPO, we hosted a Ministerial Conference of African Least Developed Countries which adopted the “Milan Charter” and, in October, we will organize an high-level event on the role of finance and innovation in the context of the agriculture and agri-food sectors contributing to both food security and inclusive growth.

Mr President, Distinguished colleagues,

I wish to conclude by recalling the importance of making natural resources count in our policy planning. Next year the UN Statistical Commission will come forward with crucial deliberations on a global framework of indicators to measure SDGs. This will offer the opportunity to move decisively “beyond GDP” indicators and launch partnerships on capacity-building in this sector. It will also lay the basis for increased synergies between the HLPF and the UN Statistical Commission.

Let use this HLPF session to plant the seeds for a new mindset that will guide us to implementing the new Agenda. Let us shift towards a nexus approach that envisages complexity as a resource for people well-being and planet health.

Thank you.