

## **High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Ministerial Segment, July, 7, 2015**

### **Statement by Estonia, Delivered by Mr Margus Sarapuu, Director, Strategy Unit, Government Office of Estonia**

Honorable Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

Firstly, I would like to point out what Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday that this year will be landmark for humanity. We are on the road to adopt the universal sustainable development goals. The SDGs are based on not only the successes of the MDGs, but also on their shortcomings. They are designed to continue the vision of the MDGs by honestly acknowledging and addressing the remaining caps and critical factors.

One of these critical factors is agreeing on a comprehensive and effective approach for accountability, monitoring and review of realizing the new goals. This approach should be based on national ownership and leadership, and implementation with an efficient framework at all levels – national, regional and global; it should be inclusive and be based on reliable data and statistics. The progress and outstanding issues arising from the national and regional reviews should feed into the global review level.

We agree with the proposal set out in the zero draft that the High Level Political Forum would be the main platform for this purpose. The HLPF should be a forum for informing of advancements, sharing States' knowledge, best practices and challenges, and also for maintaining the level of ambition and commitment of the post-2015 agenda. We support the idea that States would volunteer to participate in this process at least twice until 2030 or more, if possible.

The HLPF should increase the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a comprehensive and cross-sectorial manner at all levels, ensuring the adequate consideration of emerging

sustainable development challenges. Thus, the thematic discussions are also welcomed.

The monitoring, accountability and review of the financing for development conference should be an integral part of the post-2015 monitoring, accountability and review and therefore feed into the HLPF. In order to provide strong political guidance and follow-up to the Addis outcome, appropriate consideration should be given to this subject during the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years.

We also emphasize cohesion and avoiding redundancies by utilizing existing institutional mechanisms, so as to conserve resources. As a current member of ECOSOC, we believe that the HLPF should largely rely on ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies; all the segments and the Partnership Forum can play a supporting role in the global monitoring, accountability and review process. However, the HLPF should also take into account the work of relevant UN system bodies and other international organizations such as the OECD.

Dear Colleagues,

Like many of the other States, Estonia is taking steps toward implementing the sustainable development goals and integrating them into our national sustainable development monitoring system. Our national strategies and planning documents already cover post -2015 issues. However, we need to revise them in the context of new trends and sustainable development goals.

We consider the coordination and cooperation of all levels across the sectors to be an especially important aspect of the post-2015 agenda's success. What is more, continuous awareness building and effective communication of sustainable development goals with the involvement of private sector and civil society organizations remains essential for mobilizing all available resources for reaching the global goals.

Thank you!