



**Statement**

**by**

**Mr. Hassan Abbas**

**at the informal meetings of the plenary  
on the process of Intergovernmental Negotiations  
on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**New York, February 18, 2015**

*Check against delivery*

Lebanon aligns itself with the statement delivered by Jordan on behalf of the Arab Group and the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

Allow me at the outset to commend you for the commitment and patience you have shown throughout this negotiation process, and for your commendable effort at providing the delegations with the Elements Paper for the Declaration which should serve as a good basis for our deliberations.

Our round of negotiations this week is an opportunity to discuss and hopefully agree on the major elements, balance and structure of next September's UN Summit Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Declaration is an essential constituent of the Agenda. It is the tool through which our leaders will communicate the Agenda to the people of our planet, and declare their commitment to a set of goals and targets that will shape the economic, social and environmental policies of our governments for the next 15 years.

In this regard, we believe that the Declaration should be ambitious, visionary and results oriented, and while we recognize the reasoning behind the desire expressed by some delegations for a Declaration that is brief and concise, however, such a formulation should not affect its comprehensiveness and inclusiveness. Every nation and its people should feel that this Declaration speaks for them, recognizes their hopes, needs and challenges, and leaves no one behind.

The Declaration should draw on previous processes particularly the Millennium Declaration and Rio+20. It should continue to mobilize resources to eradicate poverty and focus on achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions. It must be universal in scope and in implementation bringing everyone on board in the public and private spheres.

The Declaration must recognize the significance of human rights, the rule of law, good governance, gender equality, women's empowerment, freedom, peace, security, justice and representative and nationally accountable institutions for the successful implementation of this agenda.

It must acknowledge that foreign occupation is a major impediment to the economic and social development of peoples and societies, as well as to their environment.

It should also identify climate change and environmental sustainability as a primary challenge to humanity's development and prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. Any positive strides that we might accomplish in our collective efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, to fight and control disease, to achieve economic growth and reduce inequality, risk being diluted or even reversed if climate change is not tackled promptly and decisively.

Distinguished co-facilitators,

When we talk about a visionary Declaration, this means that it must also address current and emerging challenges to sustainable development, including the mass displacement of people due to conflict, occupation, natural disasters and other consequences resulting from climate change. In his Synthesis Report, the Secretary-General described displacement to be at its highest level since World War II; hence the necessity to recognize its adverse impact on development, particularly in host countries of refugees.

Finally, The Declaration should affirm the indispensability of forging a new global partnership to secure the mobilization of all available public and private financial resources to implement the Agenda, and the importance of building capacities in developing countries and of technology transfer to accompany their national efforts at creating the necessary environment to advance innovation.

It must reaffirm the High Level Political Forum as the main international framework for follow up and review and for monitoring the implementation of the Agenda; notwithstanding the need to improve national monitoring frameworks, and the transparency of national data collection mechanisms through capacity building and better governance practices.

Thank you.