



**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam  
Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
to the United Nations**

**at the**

**Informal Meeting of the Plenary on the Process  
of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-  
2015 Development Agenda**

**New York, June 22, 2015**

## **Distinguished Co-Facilitators,**

Allow me at the outset to commend you once more for your efforts and for the commitment and wisdom that you have shown throughout the course of this negotiation process. As we enter the final stretch of these negotiations, we count on your leadership and experience to help us reach consensus on the Outcome Document that will comprise the Development Agenda of our planet and its inhabitants for the next 15 years.

I would also like to thank you for providing us with the Zero Draft. We believe that it represents a good basis for our forthcoming drafting sessions. It tackles most of the issues that are of considerable importance to my country. However, there remain a few issues that warrant our concern in structure and content.

On the proposed preamble, we join G77 and other delegations in voicing our concern regarding the partial set of goals that is listed in the preamble. The list does not reflect all the 17 goals and misses on crucial topics such as energy, water, infrastructure, industrialization and sustainable consumption and production.

On the Declaration, we are satisfied that it has addressed most of the issues and identified most of challenges that are of importance to developing countries in general and to my country in particular. From a national perspective we are particularly content with the reference to people living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies in paragraph 21, the reference to peaceful, just and inclusive societies and human rights, and the commitment to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation in paragraph 28. We are pleased with the content of the paragraphs addressing education, gender equality and women empowerment, health and urbanism. We value the recognition of persons with disabilities in paragraph 22 addressing education.

We are also pleased with the challenges to sustainable development as identified in the Declaration. We appreciate the co-facilitators' effort at addressing the growing challenge related to the migration of people in connection with spiraling conflict, violence and extremism, and humanitarian crises as stated in Para 12. Our Delegation is cognizant of the concerns

expressed by some Member States regarding the use of the term “migration” in a negative context exclusively, and disregarding the positive contribution that “economic migrants” in particular could have in relation to the economies of receiving states. In this regard, we are open to look into the possibility of using alternative terminology to “migration” in Para 12 that would take into account everyone’s concerns.

We are satisfied with the identification of poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge to sustainable development, as well as the challenges related to rising inequalities, unemployment, natural resource depletion, and climate change.

We would also like to note our concern regarding the reference to “shared responsibility” in Para 29 in the context of natural diversity and sustainable development, and the reference to the “historic responsibility of all states” in Para 27 on Climate Change. Both references contradict the positive and welcomed language on Common but Differentiated Responsibilities that was included in Para. 11.

On Means of Implementation (MOI’s), we welcome the listing of the MOI’s from the Open Working Group Report, and we support retaining them in the Outcome Document. We are of the view that the Addis outcome on Financing for Development (FFD) complements the Open Working Group MOI’s and does not replace them.

On Follow-up and Review, we believe that the progress that could be achieved in the FFD track on a separate follow up and review mechanism for Financing for Development should be reflected in the Post 2015 Outcome.

Finally, on the annexes, we welcome the inclusion of the Food for Thought Paper on a possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Taking into account the progress made on this particular issue in the FFD track, we are now more confident that the Technology Mechanism will feature more prominently in the Post 2015 Outcome Document that our leaders will sign on in September