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Note to the Secretary-General

14-06064

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

High-level Political Forum on sustainable development

30 June – 9 July 2014

The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the first under the auspices of ECOSOC, concluded yesterday.

10/07/14

The first four days and the ministerial segment from 7 to 9 July were well attended. Some 30 Ministers as well as senior officials from Governments, UN system and civil society - along with CEOs, parliamentarians, mayors and academia – engaged in lively discussions with the audience.

There was a clear sense that the coming 18 months will be critical for the future of humanity. It was felt that, with the crafting of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, we are faced with a unique opportunity to eradicate poverty and put sustainable development on track.

There was great support to the work of the Open Working Group on SDGs and to the goals it is discussing. The meeting reconfirmed that the goals should be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda and outlined the broad contours of this agenda. It underlined that the agenda should be centered around the human being and poverty eradication. Those should be the ultimate purpose of economic growth. The increasing inequality worldwide was of great concern as was unemployment.

Climate change was seen as threatening the very future of humanity and several participants pointed to its visible impacts. They referred to your summit in September and to the need to reach an agreement in Paris in 2015. There was the feeling that the processes on the SDGs, financing and climate change should converge.

Environmental degradation was a ~~concern for all countries~~, and water, energy and food were identified as priorities.

Means of implementation and common but differentiated responsibilities were key themes in the discussions.

Speakers pointed out the importance of building knowledge-based societies, improving access to technologies, and making relevant data available in all countries.

Much emphasis was placed on the importance of governance, rule of law and peace and security for sustainable development.

The prototype of the Global Sustainable Development Report was extremely well received and DESA was commended for preparing it. The report was seen as an instrument for the HLPF to strengthen the science-policy-society interface.

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The discussions confirmed the expectations of many Member States that the HLPF will have a critical role to follow up on the SDGs and the post 2015 development agenda. There was a pointed reflection on how the forum should best conduct its reviews of implementation starting in 2016.

Agreement was reached on the ministerial declaration. The negotiations were not always easy in part because there was a concern to avoid overlap with other processes. Nonetheless the text is fairly comprehensive and points to issues likely to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda as outlined above.

I believe that HLPF lived up to its expectations and while it will have a stronger basis for action in the post-2015 framework it showed that it can fulfil its mandate and advance the thinking on the post-2015 development agenda.



WU Hongbo
10 July 2014

Cc: Deputy Secretary-General

ODSG	CDC	SG
For approval <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
For attention <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	Noted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>[Signature]</i>
For information <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
For signature <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject Note to the SG from Mr. Wu on High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, held 30 June – 9 July 2014	Date: <i>14/07/14</i> Comment (if applicable): <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>17/07/14</i>
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Fw: Note to the SG (DESA-14/0893) - High-level Political Forum on sustainable development 30 June - 9 July 2014

SGCentral to: Hazel Foster
Sent by: Hazel Foster

10/07/2014 11:59 AM

----- Forwarded by Hazel Foster/NY/UNO on 10/07/2014 11:59 AM -----

From: Helen Valencia/NY/UNO
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Cc: Hongbo Wu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Haitian Lu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Anastasiya Delenda/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kay Govia/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Yunxiao Long/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Lin Yang/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 10/07/2014 11:57 AM
Subject: Note to the SG (DESA-14/0893) - High-level Political Forum on sustainable development 30 June - 9 July 2014



DESA-14-00893.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached a Note from Mr. Wu to the Secretary-General subjected, "High-level Political Forum on sustainable development 30 June - 9 July 2014".

All the best,

Helen



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