



EGYPT

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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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نيويورك

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mootaz Khalil
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
At the first session of the
Open Working Group on sustainable development goals**

United Nations General Assembly

March 14th, 2013

Mr. Co-Chair,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1- We are finally starting the work of the OWG with everyone on board. I would like to congratulate the two co-chairs for their election. We are confident that they will lead our work in a transparent and inclusive manner that will reflect universal ownership and consensus over the outcome.
- 2- The process of elaborating sustainable development goals is one important outcome of the Rio+20 summit, along with other processes addressing means of implementation including finance and technology. They should all form an integral part of the post 2015 development agenda. This, in addition to the assessment of the implementation and probably carry-over of the Millennium Development Goals.
- 3- Sustainable Development Goals have to aim at eradicating poverty. They should be simple enough to relay to the lay man. Yet, they have to integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of development in order to ensure sustainability. They should address the different items of Agenda 21, while being able to tackle emerging issues. They should focus on the qualitative aspect of the development effort. This means creating opportunities for a better future for disadvantaged nations and peoples around the world, including quality nutrition, quality education, quality health services and creating decent jobs.
- 4- Sustainable Development Goals have to be practical as well. They have to be linked to specific means of implementation including financing, technology transfer and accessibility, and capacity building. They should focus on both traditional and innovative ways of financing to ensure sufficient and predictable funding. They cannot neglect the role of official development assistance, with the excuse of the persistence financial crisis. They should address the root causes of the global financial and economic crisis. They should target to stop and then reverse the net flow of resources from developing countries to the North, both in the form of licit and illicit transfers. They should address the increasing impact of corruption. The repatriation of illegal assets can provide a source of new and additional financing for developing countries. Moreover it would be a testament that the rule of law is a universal principle.
- 5- Finally, the Sustainable Development Goals should be applicable to all, while taking into account the different capabilities and circumstances of countries. They should apply to unsustainable modes of consumption, wasting and production in developed countries, without diverting from the international cooperation paradigm based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries. They should include agreed indicators that would determine our collective progress in fulfilling our collective responsibilities.
- 6- Egypt stands ready to cooperate with the other members of the Group, the co-chairs and the open membership of the UN in order to reach an outcome that can contribute to the future we want.

Thank you for your attention.