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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

SDGs must eradicate poverty – southern Africa envoys

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Wednesday, 17 April, 2013 – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must focus on poverty eradication “in all its forms”, Southern African countries’ diplomats declared at the 193-member UN meeting.

Speaking on behalf of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe during the second meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) on Wednesday, Zambia’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Her Excellency, Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota, said poverty reduction must be the number one priority of the SDGs, which are currently being formulated.

“My region wishes to reiterate that the SDGs we envisage must focus on addressing poverty eradication in all its forms as it is a key challenge to achieving sustainable development at both the regional and national levels,” Dr Kasese-Bota said.

According to the Zambian envoy, poverty eradication requires multidimensional approach that cut across relevant thematic areas and sectors.

She said the success in the achievement of poverty eradication depends largely on the global community working together in a coherent manner in formulating internationally acceptable and universally applicable SDGs that resonate with different and heterogeneity contextual realities of the Member States.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target to halve extreme poverty by 2015 has been slow and remains a major challenge, Dr Kasese-Bota noted.

“The SDGs, therefore, must take into consideration key lessons learned [from MDGs] especially in relation to stable and continued economic growth, income inequality, unemployment, access to social services including health for all, sustainable energy and science and technological innovations,” she said.

The Southern African Group said each SDG must be accompanied by means of implementation in form of financing, technology transfer and capacity building.

The commitments on SDGs in the Post-2015 Development Agenda should be clearly stated and differentiated from the already existing commitments, Dr Kasese-Bota said.

She added that the time span for the SDGs must be considered in order to have “clear financing and implementation commitments”.

“I wish to emphasise that as we consider the issues of indicators and targets of sustainable development, the goals should not only be quantifiable, but must bear a strong and indispensable element of quality standards,” Dr Kasese-Bota said. “There is no room for hitting off the mark. Let’s get it right once and for all.”

Issued by:



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Caption

Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Dr Mwaba Kasese-Bota (left) and Ministry of Finance Deputy Director for Regional Planning Esnart Mpokosa at the second meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development on Wednesday April 17, 2013. PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | GRZ