



STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY COMRADE R.G. MUGABE,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE,**

AT THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT

TO ADOPT THE POST-2015

DEVELOPMENT AGENDA,

NEW YORK,

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2015.

Co-Chairs of the Post-2015 Summit, President Yoweri
Museveni of Uganda and Prime Minister Lars
Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General
of the United Nations

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends.

Fifteen years ago, in a similar setting as today, we signed the Millennium Declaration which, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), mobilized global efforts towards meeting the pressing development challenges we faced then. On balance, some progress has been made in meeting those Goals, but overall, progress is unsatisfactory and insufficient. The uneven progress made within and among countries, and among regions, has widened inequalities and, in some cases, deepened poverty.

Co-Chairmen,

Our gathering at this Summit therefore confirms our common conclusion that the battles against poverty, inequality, exclusion and global warming, are far from being won. It is also confirmation of our common resolve to broaden the fields of our actions, and go on an all-out war, whose ultimate goal is the transformation of the world we live in today. To say that our development agenda for the next thirty years is ambitious, does not quite describe the enormity of the transformational vision we have set for ourselves.

Co-Chairmen,

The success of the new Agenda that we are about to adopt will depend on several factors. Key among them are the concrete actions that we are going to take at the national level to domesticate this international Agenda. In Zimbabwe, following a series of multistakeholder participatory consultations, including development partners, we have adopted a national position on how to align the new Agenda to our national

development priorities. These are contained in the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) which is anchored on four pillars, namely:-

- Food Security and Nutrition.
- Social Services and Poverty Eradication.
- Infrastructure and Utilities; and
- Value Addition and Beneficiation.

Zimbabwe acknowledges that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and invisible. But, due to limited resources, we are severely constrained from implementing all of them at the same time. We have, therefore, inevitably had to prioritise their implementation.

I want to confirm and underline, nevertheless, that Zimbabwe is committed to implementing all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As resources become more available we will naturally adjust the basket of Goals that we will implement at any one point in time.

Co-Chairmen,

In the context of its implementation of the new Agenda, my country's key priority and critical challenge is to bring the economy back on a sustained growth trajectory. The reforms we are undertaking, including measures to attract investments, will materialise if the unjustified sanctions Zimbabwe has been subjected to for the past fifteen years, are removed. We call for the unconditional and immediate removal of these sanctions in the spirit of the transformative Agenda we are all about to subscribe to. Freed of the fetters of sanctions, my country stands a better chance of achieving our national vision of sustainable inclusive growth, human-centred development, structural transformation and poverty eradication.

Co-Chairmen,

In pledging that “no one will be left behind”, as we embark on this collective journey, our Agenda is a truly empowering instrument and mechanism. In Zimbabwe, we have adopted and are implementing several programmes, to empower our previously disadvantaged people. A key component of our

empowerment agenda has been the land reform programme which, contrary to its detractors, has lifted many families out of poverty. We are determined to leave no one behind in the spirit of the new Agenda. We will, therefore, continue to refine and adjust our empowerment programmes so that they encompass all the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our country.

Co-Chairmen,

It is critical that adequate financial resources be mobilized and availed for the successful implementation of our new Agenda. The focus on domestic public resources as the major source of funding for the Agenda corresponds with the principle of the primacy of national ownership of the development Agenda. To generate the levels of the required resources, national economies must grow. For growth to be achieved, in addition to appropriate domestic policies, our countries need a coherent and supportive international environment. The transformative Agenda must, therefore, not be confined to the national level but must equally extend to the international arena so that systemic issues that impede our countries' development are addressed.

Co-Chairmen,

International cooperation in stemming the haemorrhaging of Africa's resources, through transfer pricing, tax evasion, and other criminal activities, must be reinforced. We need to redouble efforts to agree on the Doha Development Agenda and put in place a universal, rules-based, predictable, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system.

The reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions is long overdue. The issue of debt sustainability calls for urgent, clear-headed resolution. These are not new issues. They have been with us for too long. They constitute a huge part of the baggage that we need to shed if the transformative new Agenda is to succeed. We hope that in adopting this new Agenda, all of us are aware of what it entails. We hope that we are similarly committed to shed old habits and contribute to ushering in the potentially glorious era promised in our new Agenda.

Co-Chairmen,

The success of our Agenda calls for more and not less international cooperation and solidarity. The fact that we are enlarging the circle of our partnerships should not result in the weakening of existing ones or the mutual responsibilities we already share. It should, in fact, strengthen them. The universality of this Agenda is not just that it applies to all of us but also that it belongs to all of us.

This Agenda promises a brave new world, a new world which we have to consciously construct. A new world that calls for the creation of a new global citizen. I want to believe that we are up to this task which we have voluntarily and collectively committed ourselves to. Our success and, in particular, the promise of a new world that awaits us depends upon this commitment.

I thank you.

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