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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn,
Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia

At

The United Nations Summit to Adopt the Post 2015
Development Agenda

September 25, 2015
New York.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

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

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address this Summit of the United Nations for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

My congratulations go to both Co-Chairpersons on presiding over this historic Summit.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

It is difficult to conceive of a more fitting time than this, the 70th anniversary of our universal organization, for embarking on a newly revitalized international partnership for development. The genuine hope we have is this Summit signifies the commitment we all have made to transform our world. That is what the 2030 agenda for sustainable development calls for. No doubt, our future also lies in actions we take to carry out the commitments we make. Never before has the international community made such a bald and farsighted commitment as now to eradicate extreme poverty in a relatively short period of time.

It was at the dawn of the new millennium, we, leaders, made the landmark commitment in the Millennium Declaration, to spare no effort to free our people from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty. It was this

commitment that gave birth to the MDGs. The MDGs have been a true inspiration to all of us, and through their implementation, we have saved the lives of millions and improved conditions for many more. The past fifteen years of the MDGs period has indeed been of notable achievements.

These accomplishments inspire us all to spare no effort and to continue to do more to overcome the many development challenges our world currently faces. As much as we have enjoyed progress in implementing the MDGs, we should nonetheless acknowledge that by in large the MDGs are unfinished business. Progress has been uneven across regions and countries. Despite the progress made, many millions still live in poverty and hunger, without access to basic services; the gap between the poorest and richest households has widened; gender inequality persists; climate change and environmental degradation undermine progress achieved; and conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development. All these challenges call for urgent and concerted actions.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

As we stand at the dawn of the new development era, the SDGs which we are about to set out to implement require much more concerted and resolute efforts than what was witnessed in connection with the implementation of the MDGs. This is not because the goals are simply big in numbers, but because they are universally applicable and much more ambitious. No doubt, the goals represent aspirations to transform the

international development cooperation landscape. Failure to achieve them in one country or region means failure in the entire world. We need to draw lessons from the implementation of the MDGs.

One of the factors that contributed to the difficulties of finishing MDGs is the problem encountered in the provision of adequate means of implementation. As we are about to embark on a journey to implement the new Sustainable Development Agenda, we need to commence the journey with confidence knowing that a great deal of this work has already been done prior to this Summit. It was a couple of month ago that we agreed on means of implementation for the realization of the SDGs when we gathered in Addis to adopt a comprehensive policy framework - the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. That agenda has now become an integral part of the post 2015 development agenda and is critical for the achievement of the SDGs. It is therefore paramount that the international community ensures that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is fully implemented so that the SDGs can be fully realized. We are pleased this is well reflected in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda today means a lot of things for us in the developing world, particularly in Africa. It means the beginning of the fight to eliminate extreme poverty once and for all; it means the commencement of an important journey to transform our respective economies into high value-sectors to generate jobs for our

youth; it means developing the capacity of human resources through the creation of a learning society; and it means conserving our environment while adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The coming years, no doubt, will continue to witness changes in the global political and economic landscapes. These changes, in order to serve our collective interest, must be shaped by us in conformity with our common but differentiated responsibilities. The role that the United Nations plays in this regard is critical, and this Summit is an opportunity we must seize to commit to the realization of the aims and purposes of this Organization. For all its imperfections, the United Nations is still an institution for which there is no substitute. As we commemorate the 70th anniversary, the task that we give the Organization should be matched by the necessary political support to enable the UN to discharge its responsibilities.

We, in Ethiopia, are committed, distinguished Co-Chairs, to embark on the important journey of implementing the SDGs. We have now launched the next five-year national development plan – the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II). The task of mainstreaming the SDGs into our national development plan could not have come at a better time. The alignment of these development strategies therefore affords us the opportunity to pursue our effort to build a resilient and greener economy. As much as we are determined to achieve our development objectives through mobilizing our domestic resources, we stand a better chance of realizing them fully and effectively if our efforts are supplemented by the

support from our development partners whose contributions have been paramount over the years. We are confident that through continued and strengthened collaboration, including in connection with securing and protecting peace, we can do even more to achieve the transformative agenda we have.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

This Summit of ours once again affords us the chance to pledge our commitment to humanity. Let this be the occasion from which will rise collective resolve to embark on a genuine journey of building a safer and prosperous world where no one is left behind.

I thank you.