



Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations

Statement by
His Majesty King Mswati III
Head of State
of the Kingdom of Swaziland

on the occasion of the United Nations Summit on the adoption of the
post-2015 development agenda

26 September 2015

New York

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CO-CHAIRS,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATES AND
GOVERNMENT,
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS AUGUST SUMMIT DURING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, MARKING THE END OF THE ERA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) AND ALSO TO CONSIDER THE NEW GLOBAL 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MDGS SINCE WE EMBRACED THEM IN THE YEAR 2000, HERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. WE PLEDGE FURTHER COMMITMENT TO THE NEW 2030 AGENDA.

PARTNERSHIPS TO OVERCOME FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT

THE UN REVIEW OF THE MDG'S HAS BEEN WELL CAPTURED AND ALLOWS US TO MEASURE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES.

WHILE WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN SOME AREAS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HAS BEEN THE INADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NUMBER OF THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TO LONG TERM GOALS.

DONOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE VITAL TO THE REALISATION OF THE NEW GOALS, WHICH SERVE AS A RENEWAL TO THE EFFORT OF CHANGING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR THE BETTER.

CO-CHAIRS,

IT IS EVIDENTLY CLEAR THAT FORMING A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT IS THE KEY TO THE SUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION DESIRED BY THE UN FAMILY OF NATIONS, AS NO COUNTRY CAN SUCCEED IN ISOLATION.

FOR AFRICA, WHAT MAKES SUCH PARTNERHIPS MORE VIABLE, IS THAT THE NEW GLOBAL AGENDA RESONATES VERY WELL WITH THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063, AS THEY BOTH SEEK TO CREATE BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR OUR PEOPLE ON THE CONTINENT.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS ALSO DEVELOPED HER NATIONAL VISION 2022 CLOSELY ALIGNED TO THE CONTINENTAL VISION, IN HER EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM FROM A MIDDLE INCOME TO A DEVELOPED COUNTRY.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MDGS

IN PURSUIT OF THIS INTERNATIONALLY ALIGNED VISION, THE KINGDOM OF E-SWATINI IS HAPPY TO REPORT RECOGNISABLE PROGRESS IN FIVE OF THE EIGHT MDG'S SET OUT IN THE YEAR 2000.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN REALIZED IN ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION WHERE THE ENROLMENT RATE HAS INCREASED FROM 72.1 % IN 2000 TO 97% IN 2014.

WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED A ROBUST POLICY TO GUIDE GENDER ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY, INTEGRATION OF THESE ISSUES INTO DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING AND PLACED CAREER GUIDANCE OFFICERS AT THE REGIONAL OFFICES TO HELP IMPROVE SENSITIZATION.

WE WISH TO APPLAUD THE AU FOR RECENTLY HONOURING THE COUNTRY FOR HER EFFORTS IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.

IN THE HEALTH SECTOR WE HAVE INTRODUCED FREE ACCESS TO ART TO THOSE WHO NEED SUCH SERVICES. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED A QUALITY NEW TB CENTRE TO CATER FOR PATIENTS AND DEVELOPED AN EFFECTIVE MALARIA PROGRAMME. CHILD MORTALITY HAS ALSO BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED.

IN ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, PROGRAMMES TO THIS TARGET ARE IN PLACE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

CONCLUSION

FINALLY, MAY I REITERATE THAT STRONG GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS, PEACE AND STABILITY SHOULD BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR NEW GLOBAL AGENDA.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT TOGETHER AND UNITED WE WILL TRANSFORM OUR WORLD AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT LEAVES NOBODY BEHIND.

THESE NEW GOALS REQUIRE THAT OUR COMMITMENT MUST NOT BE JUST TO ACCEPT A CHANGE OF NAME, BUT MUST BE ONE WITH RESULTS THAT CHANGE THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE FOR THE BETTER.

I THANK YOU – MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.