

**Statement of the Honourable Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu**

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu**

**Post- 2015 Development Summit Plenary**

**26 September 2015**

**United Nations, New York**

**Mr. President;**

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Introduction**

Mr. President, at the outset, let me take this opportunity to thank you for giving me this occasion to address this august gathering on behalf of the Government and people of Vanuatu.

Mr. President, today we are meeting at a critical juncture in history, one which presents us with a unique opportunity to positively change the lives of millions of people around the world especially for those categorized at the bottom of the development ladder.

This year, 2015, three (3) important global agendas have been in parallel discussions at the United Nations (UN). They include the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the recently concluded Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Climate Change Paris Agreement which will be concluded later this year.

**Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals**

Mr. President, the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals that will be replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is promising for humanity's development for the next 15 years. The MDGs ignited an unprecedented human progress and improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people, mobilising development efforts through and towards an emphasis on outcomes. They have inspired and contributed to the empowerment of whole populations, including women and children by providing standards to which governments can be held accountable. They also provide an excellent platform from which SDGs can be built.

I am delighted to see that the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals have incorporated the unfinished business of the MDGs and to see that they clearly reflect the unique and the special case of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The success of Post-2015 in any country will depend on three main factors:

1. Access to financial resources
2. Access to appropriate technology and

### 3. Country capacity

As regards access to financial resources, the recently concluded Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is important to SIDS and LDCs as it provides a foundation for implementing the SDGs we will very soon adopt. I call on all developed countries to meet ODA commitments as agreed to in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. The ODA targets of 0.7% of GNI and also the increase ODA target of 0.20% of GNI to LDCs by 2020 must be met. Meeting these targets is paramount to realizing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Climate Change**

Climate Change remains a major global challenge for humanity and it is important that we address this urgently. For small island developing states like Vanuatu, climate change remains one of the biggest threats to achieving our sustainable development.

Mr. President, the linkage between climate change and sustainable development is well documented. Without addressing climate change, sustainable development in SIDs cannot be achieved.

Our recent experience clearly demonstrates this. In March this year, Vanuatu experienced an unprecedented Category 5 tropical cyclone that affected 60% of our population and reversed multiple years of economic progress. I take this opportunity to thank the global community for the overwhelming humanitarian assistance rendered to our people in the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Pam and for the ongoing assistance in our recovery and reconstruction efforts.

#### **Conclusion**

Mr. President, Global and country ownerships of these SDGs are important. The UN system needs to be reformed in order to realign to effectively implement these SDGs. Lessons learnt from the implementation of the MDGs should assist us going forward. These reforms must be extended to all regional arrangements as well.

Mr. President, allow me to reiterate again that Vanuatu welcomes the 2030 Agenda Goals and we believe that this will lead to renewed global partnerships and new forms of cooperation which we hope will expedite the implementation of the Post-2015 SDGs.

Mr. President, it is now time for more action and less rhetoric.

I thank you!