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Statement by
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Check against delivery

Ladies and gentlemen

It is very important, that our post 2015 Agenda, addresses the interrelated challenges of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by introducing a single set of new Goals that call for a balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

But the questions remain.

How can we ensure that in the next fifteen years we do not repeat the same mistakes as the last fifteen, or the fifteen before that?

Why is it that in the last 30-plus years the security, economic, social and environmental challenges we face on a global and regional level, stay the same or get even worse?

Our experience in Greece could be instructive.

Greece is at the center of three overlapping crises:

A eurozone economic crisis, as a result of neoliberal policy choices that led to a 25% decrease in our GDP.

A security crisis, because of the increasing instability surrounding Greece, in North Africa, the Middle East and the Black Sea.

And a refugee crisis resulting in the mass migration of hundreds of thousands of people, seeking a better life in Europe.

In order to face such challenges we must set and strive for goals such as the ones we discuss today.

But our experience in Greece shows that this is not enough.

None of the challenges we face in Greece, in our broader region, in Europe or even on a global level, can be dealt with solely by setting Goals and leaving the framework in which we function, untouched and beyond dispute.

We cannot talk substantially about aid in developing countries or loans in developed ones, unless we tackle the issue of debt as an international challenge at the center of our global financial system.

In all competent fora, including this one, we need to talk about how restructuring or reprofiling of public debt, can be linked with development.

Historical experience shows that debt restructuring is necessary for recovery, even for developed countries, as it happened for Germany in 1953.

We cannot talk about eradicating poverty or unemployment, unless we can discuss how to build or improve welfare states instead of destroying them.

We must distance ourselves from the neoliberal idea that markets are the sole resource allocator in the economy.

And we cannot talk about a solid state tax base on the basis of a global financial system that encourages tax havens and the founding of off shore companies.

Just the same way, we cannot talk about a solid tax system unless democratically elected governments retain the right to decide who they will lay the tax burden on.

A substantial development agenda can only take root in an economic, financial and political environment that fosters Development.

And Greece, as a pillar of stability in its region, will consistently promote and support all efforts for such a global and European economic and financial system.

A system that will allow our Agenda to flourish in the next 15 years, rather than suffocating it as it did in the last 30.

This will not be easy.

As a great economist said, "the difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones."

Thank you very much.