

**CLOSING REMARKS BY  
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PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA AND  
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AGENDA  
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**JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

**JUNE 12, 2015**

Excellencies,  
Colleagues:

We have come to the conclusion of very fruitful deliberations on the informative report from our representatives in New York on developments in the inter-governmental negotiation processes relating to the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD). We have gained deep insights into the achievements, but also challenges that persist.

I extend appreciation, on your behalf, to our Chairperson Dr. Zuma for her close attention to the work of our Committee; and the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. Mauruping, whose office supports our Committee at all levels. A special thanks is reserved for you, the Members of the Committee for your attendance and, importantly, your active participation in the exchange of views on the Report.

Three requirements have been advanced very prominently in the negotiations on the new development agenda as critical for the success of the global endeavor. They are finance, technology and capacity building. As Africa has fully embraced the SDGs which incorporate substantially many of our aspirations, we must prepare our countries to assume the responsibilities which will follow the adoption of these goals.

In addition to effective policies which must be put in place and institutions to be strengthened, it is imperative to build capacity at the national level to develop indicators according to the circumstances of each country to measure progress in the implementation of programs that will be launched. The global community is hard at work in developing the tools to measure progress at the global level. Africa must do the same expeditiously at the regional level and African countries must follow suit at the national level, with clear roadmaps and work plans.

This is why I fully endorse the proposal tabled by the Delegation of South Africa (or President Zuma) for coordination of resource mobilization effort to support the strengthening of national capacities to generate statistics, African countries should essentially develop capacity to collect data, collate and interpret it in a disaggregated manner so that we are able to systematically track implementation of the goals with the objective to minimizing inequalities within our societies and truly leave no segment of the society behind. I am encouraged that the African statistics community is aware, engaged and taking initiatives to build capacity and harmonize statistics on the Continent.

As governments, the new development agenda would require us to develop national plans that integrate the SDGs, as well as goals enshrined in our Agenda 2063. We are challenged to develop indicators that signal the areas of greatest need and population most marginalized. In short, we must equip and capacitate ourselves at the national level to utilize all opportunities that will emanate from the new development paradigm. We in our countries should behind now the processes of internal coordination and preparations in our countries if we are expected to begin implementation in January 2016.

Finally, Colleagues, let us ensure that the new dispensation brings new impetus to the global campaign for women's rights. Their equality and empowerment should find a place high on the national agendas so that 2030 will mark a truly transformative change in the status of women, including the girl child.