

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
to the Regional Meeting and Stakeholder Consultation
on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Bali, December 13-14, 2012**

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me convey my deepest appreciation and thanks to you for the invitation to share my thoughts on the Post-2015 Development Agenda during the deliberations of ASEAN member States and other constituencies at the Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting and Stakeholder Consultation in Bali. I do so not only in my capacity as co-Chair of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons, but also as a voice of Africa.

I am looking forward to visiting Indonesia in March, when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, also a co-Chair, will host the Panel's fourth meeting, after my own country hosts the third session in Monrovia.

I am honored by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's appointment to co-chair the Panel, to listen to the voices of the hundreds of millions of Africans and countless others from around the planet. Through robust consultations, we are hearing what the world considers a reasoned, practical development agenda that can successfully tackle the myriad dimensions of poverty after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire in 2015.

Last July, the Secretary-General, mindful of the expiration of the MDGs three years hence, empanelled 24 eminent persons of diverse backgrounds from across the globe, and three co-Chairs – President Yudhoyono, Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, and me – to deliberate, consult and make recommendations on what development framework might replace the MDGs.

The specific tasks of the High-Level Panel are to:

- Make recommendations regarding the vision and shape of a post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21st century, building on the MDGs and with a view to ending poverty;
- Identify ways to build and sustain broad political consensus on an ambitious yet achievable post-2015 development agenda around the three dimensions of economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability, taking into account the particular challenges of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; and
- Propose key principles for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms.

The Panel held its first meeting in New York, in the margins of the General Assembly session in September, to get to know each other and to devise a work program to achieve the objectives set. In New York, we agreed on key issues such as maintaining focus on the MDGs, poverty eradication, and determining new global challenges that post-date the 2000 Millennium Declaration, since much had changed since it was adopted.

We agreed that the process to develop a post-2015 global development agenda must be inclusive, transparent, evidence-based and consultative. This Regional Meeting taking place in Bali is in furtherance of the objective of consultation in order to obtain global consensus on a new development framework. Let me therefore thank President Yudhoyono and his government for convening this meeting to hear the views of stakeholders in ASEAN and from other Pacific nations.

Other consultative processes are ongoing. Across Africa, stakeholders from different backgrounds are mobilized to consult and agree on what should be presented as the continent's development priorities. African Heads of State and Government are fully involved in the process and have instructed Pan

African institutions, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to develop what is called an “African Common Position” on the post-2015 development agenda.

The emerging perspectives from the consultations thus far make it clear that Africans want to have more ownership and control of the development process, as part of the economic transformation that will promote growth, create wealth, address the economic and social needs of their populations, promote self-reliance, ensure social cohesion and reduce conflict.

Fragility and conflict are impediments to poverty eradication. I therefore urge the global community to support the principles and pillars expressed in the New Deal of the group of 7+ configuration. I also call upon, you representing ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries, to examine the reasons for national and regional conflicts and consider how an early warning system can be devised to detect emerging conflicts and to put in mechanisms to resolve them.

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The establishment of the MDGs in 2000 resulted in the unprecedented mobilization of substantial resources to fight global poverty in order to improve socio-economic indicators. Although there are varying narratives concerning the achievements of the MDGs, the massive human effort deployed to improve the lot of mankind as a result of global benchmarks and targets cannot be denied.

Under the MDGs, much progress has been made collectively globally. Some of the indicators will be met; for example, poverty, where we expect there will be a 50 percent reduction, although not for a number of countries, particularly in Africa. Moreover, significant resources have been mobilized to tackle HIV/AIDS and maternal and infant mortality; and women’s marginalization has been significantly reduced in many parts of the world. We are seeing how

we can accelerate action, on a nationwide basis, to be able to achieve as many of the Goals under the MDGs as possible before the 2015 date.

Today, as we approach the new agenda, we recognize that it must come from a robust consultation, and that in all countries, the people must have a say in the future that they want for their people.

The process is one in which it's not the Panel that's going to determine what that global agenda should be. Twenty-four people cannot do that. What they can do is to lead the dialogue and the consultation, the examination of the research, analysis, reports, ongoing processes in each of the regions to be able to see what that consensus will be as the new agenda.

In Africa, our regional institutions – the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, and our economic communities – are doing the research, the analysis, the consultation that will say what Africa wants, where Africa wants to be in 15 years, after 2015. Our civil society is also very active in this process in all of our regions, and networking across themselves to make sure that they have the same shared values in what we'd like to see.

I am therefore delighted that you, at this Regional Meeting are discussing what's happening in your region, to be able to add your voices to the global conversation.

With still three years to go for the MDGs, we cannot take our eye off the ball. We must increase our efforts to meet the challenges and ensure that we do not lose focus on the current MDGs, while preparing for a new global agenda.

We think that every country ought to look at where they are, what they can do to accelerate their effort, how they can pinpoint particular goals that might be achieved with a little bit of extra effort, so that the new agenda builds upon the record of the MDGs, does not completely discard it, but sees where we can build and where we can refine and where we can change, to meet changing global circumstances.

Three themes run through what will be this consensus:

First is ***economic growth***, because you've got to grow to be able to redistribute income. That implies private sector involvement, going beyond state intervention to bring together the partnership between governments, between the public and the private, to be able to accelerate growth.

The second theme is ***social equity***, to ensure that no one gets left behind; that we can make sure that whatever comes out of growth, and out of the wealth of nations, will go back to a majority of the people, in some equitable fashion, so that everybody feels a part of that future that they contribute to, and benefit from.

The third theme is ***environmental sustainability***, which is something new that comes out of the climate change that we are all experiencing and trying to understand the effects of today. How do we ensure that our environment is sustained for future generations; that our natural resource capital, which is evolving and expanding today in all of our regions, will not only serve current but future generations in such a manner that sustainable growth and development can be achieved in as many of our countries as possible.

In developing a new global agenda, it must be acknowledged that the path towards sustainable development and inclusive growth must support job creation, provide greater fairness in access to natural resources, reduce inequalities, increase social protection for the most vulnerable and ensure environmental preservation. It must include as well a new governance regime, a new "compact", not just among governments, but all development stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

We are keenly aware that the new global development agenda, if it is to achieve consensus, must be truly global, taking into account the perspectives of the entire planet, while addressing the specific needs of all regions of the world. The framework must be concise, with a reasonable number of clear goals. It is our hope that the next meeting, in Monrovia in February, and the Bali meeting, a month later, will witness the emergence of a global consensus that can be communicated to the Secretary-General.

The timeframe is short; the Secretary-General expects the report to be given to him in May or early June, so that he may prepare it for submission to the General Assembly in September.

Ladies and gentlemen, any new framework proposed for the post-2015 Development Agenda will work only if society is engaged as a whole and if individuals, organizations, private companies and governments take ownership of the process. The compact must therefore redefine relationships between the different actors based on comparative advantages and accountability.

We feel motivated by the interest and enthusiasm that has been generated and demonstrated from people everywhere. They want to identify with whatever comes out as the final product, so that everyone can own it, and we can be able to take part in its implementation.

I thank you, and I wish you a very successful meeting and consultation.

(This statement was delivered, in Bali, Indonesia, on President Sirleaf's behalf, by Mr. Samuel P. Jackson, an economist and member of the President's National Secretariat on the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Framework.)