



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland
to the United Nations**

Statement by

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**The Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Kingdom of
Swaziland**

At the

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General Debate

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**Mr. President,
UN Secretary General,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates.**

Mr. President,

It is a great honour for me to address this - 69th United Nations General Assembly on behalf of His Majesty, King Mswati III Head of State of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

I wish to convey congratulations and best wishes from His Majesty the King and the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini to the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly the son of Africa.

We also wish to congratulate the Secretary-General and his staff for their good work they are doing in creating an enabling environment for all mankind to live in peace with each other despite the multiple challenges the world is faced with.

Diseases and Ebola Outbreak

Mr. President,

As we are gathered here, we are very mindful of the new challenge that confronts the global community following the outbreak of Ebola in some parts of the African continent. This disease is claiming hundreds of lives and diverting focus and resources away from essential development initiatives.

This is also a serious drawback to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and threat to mankind.

We urge the UN and its members to spare no effort in providing all the necessary assistance at its disposal to curb this disease and prevent any further loss of life.

World Conference on Indigenous People

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the General Assembly for convening the High Level Plenary Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

This is particularly opportune as indigenous knowledge and practices substantially contribute to the sustainable development agenda.

Mr. President,

This week the General Assembly held the twenty-ninth (29th) Special Session on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014.

My delegation was pleased to participate in this event. We reaffirm the Kingdom's commitment to this Programme of Action which is as relevant today as it was twenty years ago.

Climate Change

Mr. President,

Once again this year's General Assembly was preceded by the Climate Change Summit where issues of environmental protection were deliberated upon by Heads of State and Government.

These are critical to the achievement of sustainable development particularly for the developing countries. We are pleased that the Summit was able to mobilize sufficient political support for guiding the Conference of Parties on Climate Change, to be held in Lima, Peru in December this year.

The issue of Climate Change is crucial for many of our developing economies especially the continent of Africa. This has a direct effect on our national objective to produce enough food for ourselves. The unpredictable weather conditions continue to be of great concern to our farmers. We shall continue to call upon the United Nations to expedite this issue to prevent further adverse effects on our lives.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

Mr. President,

The theme of the 69th United Nations General Assembly **"Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda"**.

This resonates well with our call for a development agenda that is inclusive. This is a clear indication that we are transcending from the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) into a new chapter of the development agenda.

As we set the stage for the Post 2015 Development Agenda my delegation is heartened to see that we have not forgotten our collective inability to meet all the Millennium Development Goals.

I would like to commend the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development for the manner in which they ably guide the proceedings of this open working group.

Mr. President,

In this regard we welcome the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the goals and targets contained therein.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is pleased, that the Post 2015 Development Agenda Framework has taken into account those Millennium Development Goals which have not yet been met, especially the eradication of poverty.

As we begin a new era, let us not forget our previous commitments and continue to emphasise on the urgency for the developed partners to honor their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments.

Food Security

Food security remains a critical challenge for the African continent and we wish to reiterate our call for the provision of adequate financial resources, transfer of environmentally-sound technologies and technical assistance to developing countries if we are to achieve our development goals.

We have abundant resources in the continent. However, there is a great need for value addition to our products in order to maximize on our food production initiatives.

The Kingdom of Eswatini continues to set aside a sizeable budget for agriculture. Due to the negative effects of climate change we have a programme to construct dams for irrigation throughout the Kingdom.

Assistance to subsistence farmers with farming inputs has also been increased which is aimed at increasing their yields, thus increasing food production in the Kingdom.

AU Agenda 2063

The Kingdom of Eswatini fully supports the African Union's roadmap for development through agenda 2063 which is critical for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).

We are confident that, with the UN support, this approach will accelerate and help realize Africa's Economic Integration Agenda, facilitate integration in the world economy and ultimately improve the continent's living standards.

Enhancing Trade

Mr. President,

Africa is home to the majority of the world's fastest growing economies and trade remains an integral part of this development agenda. Focus is now centred on sustaining this growth through boosting Intra-African trade and the Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area.

It is important, however, that access to the global markets remains open to mutually beneficial conditions that promote the UN ideals of increased international cooperation and trade.

Investment Opportunities in Africa

Mr. President,

We are encouraged by the renewed commitment for the economic development of the African continent as resolved in different Summit.

The continent is abound with investment opportunities in different sectors such as; infrastructure, information, communication and technology and energy to name but a few.

This will, no doubt, have a huge impact on the sustainable development programmes for the continent. It will also contribute handsomely to job creation, particularly for our youth.

Mr. President,

We should ensure that the Post 2015 Agenda is one which is cognizant of the special development needs of developing countries, particularly those in Africa.

We also give special recognition to those developing countries which have special challenges due to their compromised geographical position, such as, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries.

It is the hope of my delegation that this agenda will also take into consideration the special plight of middle income countries where the majority of the world's poor reside.

Mr. President,

The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini is pleased to note that the Republic of China on Taiwan continues to contribute to global issues and the positive

development taking place in that region is encouraging. We encourage their full participation in all UN structures.

Terrorism and Conflicts

Mr. President,

As we are meeting here, in some parts of the world people are living in fear as each day, thousands of human beings, especially the vulnerable groups, are losing their lives to terrorists. We encourage the United Nations to take a leading role in promoting peace and co-existence in the world.

We call upon all those that are fighting to find a lasting peaceful solution to their problems through dialogue and not through the barrel of a gun.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Eswatini would like to commend the United Nations and related agencies for being a key factor in overcoming the many complex challenges facing the world today.

We reiterate our call for peaceful solutions and dialogue in all conflict situations in order for the United Nations to achieve her noble objectives.

We take pride in and reaffirm our commitment to the principles and ideals contained in the United Nations Charter.

I thank you - may the Almighty God bless us all.