

Distinguished co-facilitators,

Thank you for convening this important session and for providing us with a substantive elements paper to guide our discussions for the next two days. Let me also take this opportunity to align myself with the statements made by the Permanent Representative of South Africa, on behalf of the G-77 and the Permanent Representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group and state that the Permanent Representatives of Benin and Zambia for the least developed countries and Landlocked developing countries did reflect our concerns.

Co-facilitators, drawing from Lessons learned in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, we believe more than ever that implementation of the Post-2015 agenda will require not only political will but also action on all fronts in mobilizing the needed resources. The process should therefore explore all possible sources of financing, including internal and external, public and private including through innovative sources.

This is of course no time to reinvent the wheel and we believe the zero draft should build on enforcing existing policy commitments, such as the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha declaration and the report of the Open working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and, the report of the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing.

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The element paper provided to us, rightly emphasizes that the post-2015 agenda will be implemented primarily at the national and subnational levels. However, Rwanda is of the view that this will require not only an enabling domestic environment, but also an international system that takes into consideration the various needs faced by developing countries. In this respect, let me emphasize that the Common But Differentiated Responsibility principle must be taken into consideration. In addition, a global partnership should be based on mutual interest with a call to complement national priorities. In aspiring to become a middle income country in 2020, Rwanda is determined to continue mobilizing resources from domestic sources and widen her taxable base as a way of reducing dependency on foreign aid and ensuring sustainable growth. Pursuing that objective of reducing aid, we are committed to strengthening the domestic revenue base and strife to making improvements in revenue administration and tax policy improvements in agriculture, and service delivery, key areas of our economic development.

To complement our national efforts, developed countries should fulfil their ODA commitments as well as pledges on means of implementation, including financing, technology development and transfer, capacity development, international trade and south-south cooperation. In addition, aid for trade would enable a country like mine to strengthen the capacity of trade support institutions and business associations in terms of skills and address our priorities as a landlocked country.

While we believe that the primary responsibility for social and economic development lies with all countries, we also needed resources and capacity to decrease reliance on aid and increase our resilience to external shocks will be the

game changer in our quest to achieve our overarching goal of eradicating extreme poverty and ensure a life of dignity for all. One way to do that would be investing in infrastructure development, which remains a key driver and a critical enabler for sustainable growth in Africa. Addressing our infrastructure gaps will undoubtedly create the economic pre-conditions required to sustain our growth and achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, another important element to my delegation that was not captured in the element paper is the need to ensure that there is gender equality. Drawing from our experience, ensuring women access to finance leads to greater prosperity. It is therefore vital to invest in women and youth to achieve tangible results in lifting people from extreme poverty.

Furthermore, in order to achieve the SDGs, countries such as my own will continue to require tailored assistance based