

Statement by H.E. Mr. Omar HILALE  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN  
On behalf of the African Group

Preparatory Process of the Third International Conference on Financing for  
Development  
First drafting session  
General discussion

New York, 28 January 2015

Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group thank you for elaborating the element paper and notes that it contains important elements that can be part of the draft zero document.

The Group will make some preliminary observations and come up with specific comments at a later stage.

The Group see the merit of the structure contained in the document, nevertheless it finds it more pragmatic to adhere to the Monterrey structure with the addition of a specific pillar on technology, innovation and capacity building, as well as on monitoring, data and follow-up.

The African Group reaffirms the goals and commitments of Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration and highlights the importance of the need to address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of the strengthened global partnership for development as a main component of post-2015 development agenda. And in this context the Group reiterates its position on the important relevance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the right to development.

The Group would seize this occasion to emphasize that while countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, at the same time, economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and, inter alia, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty. Therefore, it's critical to support national development efforts by an enabling

international economic environment, and particular attention given to development frameworks initiated at the regional level, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, intra African trade, Africa Agenda 2063 and similar efforts in other regions.

### Co-facilitators

As highlighted in the African Common Position, a development approach requires adequate policy space and productive capacities, notably through infrastructure development; science, technology development, transfer and innovation; value addition to primary commodities; youth development; women's empowerment. It also requires addressing the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought, loss of biodiversity, sustainable natural resource

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Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture will be central to achieve the post-2015 agenda of sustainable development. Progress towards food security and nutrition can bring countries close to post-2015 aspirations of inclusive growth, reduction of inequalities, resilience, decent employment, and social protection.

According to the FAO State of Food Security in the World of 2014, some 805 million people still lived in chronic hunger in 2012-2014, of which 227 million in Africa. Chronic hunger remains strongly correlated with food access problems, primarily due to poverty but also to other factors like conflict and poor infrastructure. Actions targeted to rural populations in Africa are thus of utmost importance, and agriculture is the most effective way to reduce poverty in rural areas. Sustainable agriculture also has the unique potential to mitigate climate change and strengthen climate resilience of rural livelihoods.

As a financing framework for the post-2015 age is defined, the allocation of resources to ending hunger and malnutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural development should be seen as highest priority. Public investments remain critical in several areas, notably in agricultural and nutrition-related research and technology development, social protection, education and capacity development. The enabling framework for channeling public finance towards food, nutrition, and agriculture should help achieve multiple benefits, including increasing productivity, greater resilience, and environmental sustainability. Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women requires specific focus in financing provisions and investment. Measures are needed to boost private and community investment towards sustainable and inclusive food systems. These must boost the capacity to invest of small producers and processors.

The above needs have been captured in NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and reiterated in the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on the accelerated agricultural growth and transformation of shared prosperity and improved livelihoods.

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The Group also expects that debt relief will be used to