



STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. František Ružička

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

High-Level Event of the General Assembly

**“Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Post-2015
Development Agenda”**

**9 June 2014
New York**

-Check against delivery-

Mr. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon,
Mr. President of the General Assembly John Ashe,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We commend President of the General Assembly for organizing this high-level event allowing discussions on contributions of human rights and the rule of law to the setup of the **post-2015 sustainable development agenda**.

At the outset, I would like to align myself with the statement presented earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union and with the statement delivered by distinguished permanent representative of Austria on behalf of Group of friends.

Principles of democracy, human rights, rule of law are firmly included in many documents of the United Nations:

1. The **Millennium Declaration** emphasized the importance of human rights for development as well as the linkage between human rights, democracy and development
2. The **Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law** at the National and International Levels in September 2012 recognized mutual interrelation of rule of law, human rights and development.
3. The **Special Event on MDGs in September 2013** highlighted a coherent and balanced approach to the post-2015 agenda and its three dimensions. This approach should support democratic governance, the rule of law and human rights.

The **Rio+20** emphasized the need to have an inclusive development with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The document stressed the need to strengthen social inclusion and acknowledgement for democracy, good governance and rule of law.

These days and months members of the OWG-SDGs and Group of experts for financing sustainable development are discussing and working on a **new post-2015** sustainable development agenda. We should form universal, global goals aiming at the possibility to address, prevent and solve global challenges the mankind is facing. To handle these goals **we need functioning global, regional and national systems, institutions, legal frameworks. We need to increase accountability, transparency and efficiency.**

Experts for financing are intensively identifying existing means and institutions for implementation of sustainable development goals as well as looking for new instruments. Some of the findings are well known:

- a) public resources are shrinking,
- b) efficiency of both – national and international resources is far from being optimal,
- c) there are still persisting questions and hesitation about many innovative financing measures,
- d) discussion on free and fair trade should be given new momentum.

There are new possibilities and potential in the area of private – domestic and international – as well as blended financing. We had numerous meetings with stakeholders, private sector, global companies,

business and financial leaders. On one hand we have sensed increased willingness to participate in the process. On other hand many of them point out the **lack of stability and security in many regions** and the necessity to create or improve long term transparent, accountable and predictable systems. They stress the need for **nexus between peacebuilding and development as two interlinked and indivisible elements for sustainable peace.**

The countries need to show the readiness to protect and promote the rights of people, in particular the **most vulnerable ones and therefore** Rule of law, together with peaceful and inclusive societies, must be the **key priority** of the post-2015 development goals.

People, must be aware and should participate in the discussion, creation, implementation and evaluation of future goals inter alia through democratically elected bodies, parliaments, civil society.

We should look at **strong human rights perspective – not as a panacea, but as a natural element and enabling environment for development.**

Capable institutions can be strengthened through the rule of law. Democracy and good governance at the national and international level is essential for a sustainable development agenda, including inclusive **economic growth and social development.** Slovakia is ready to help countries at building proper capacities necessary to strengthen the rule of law capacities and legal framework.

Slovakia considers human rights and the rule of law to be an essential component integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. Without respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law

sustainable development cannot be implemented, goals cannot be reached. We strongly believe that good governance based on the rule of law contributes to **all future goals**.

Time is running fast. Our Planet may be still a good place to live, a place where we can reach the sustainability and harmony among us and with the nature. But clock is ticking and we may soon cross the line beyond which economic and social sustainability, the reconstruction of nature and will not be possible. Many countries and states around the World know, what the consequences are already now.

Slovakia looks forward to advancing the process of „Setting the Stage” for the Post-2015 Development on new qualitative level. It is what we owe to our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your attention.