STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF UNGA ON
AGENDA ITEM 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, 4 NOVEMBER 2013

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DÉCLARATION DE
BRIANNA PETERSON
DEUXIÈME SECRÉTAIRE
MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

DEUXIÈME COMMISSION DE LA 68ÈME SESSION DE L'AGNU SUR
POINT 19 : LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

NEW YORK, LE 4 NOVEMBRE 2013
Mr. Chair,

In his statement to the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the President of the General Assembly remarked that we find ourselves “at a time where we realize that the practice of sustainability provides the only real bridge from our past to our present, and our future, and from our planet to our peoples and our prosperity.”

As UN Member States work together to implement the outcome of Rio+20, global momentum is building in support of a coherent, ambitious, and realistic successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015.

The world has changed dramatically since Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration, and it is no longer business as usual. We now have an opportunity to ensure that moving forward beyond 2015, sustainability and inclusivity are at the core of a global development framework, supported by the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, environmental, and social dimensions of development, bolstered by the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. Chair,

Stimulating sustainable and inclusive economic growth is critical to poverty reduction, prosperity, and job creation. A vibrant and growing private sector is critical to sustainable economic growth and the eradication of poverty in our lifetimes. Robust private sector-led economies create jobs, new markets, and raise incomes, and they generate the substantial revenues that governments need to invest in global public goods.

Through its international assistance, Canada is helping to promote sustainable economic growth by creating strengthened and more stable investment climates; increasing the sustainability and competitiveness of enterprises, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises, and those led by women; and supplying individuals, especially women and youth, with the skills they need to take part in economic activities.
Unfortunately, even fast-growing economies face challenges in sustaining growth, and pockets of extreme poverty can persist despite expanding wealth. By promoting human rights and strengthening health, education, food security, and decent work, especially for marginalized populations, we can support sustainable progress and increased well-being of our citizens. Strong institutions, rule of law and good governance provide the foundation upon which to build capacity in these priority areas.

Mr. Chair,

Canada recognizes environmental sustainability as an important consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The natural environment is the foundation of food production and provides the majority of primary assets of the poor, while often being their main source of income, fuel, and food. Environmental sustainability remains a critical development challenge, exacerbated by factors such as a growing population, resource limitations, unsustainable economic growth, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and increasing climate variability.

Mr. Chair,

If equitable and sustainable progress is to be achieved, women's status must be improved, their rights must be respected, and their contributions must be recognized. Women around the world continue to have fewer rights, lower education and health status, less income, and less access to resources and decision-making than men. Nevertheless, women's critical roles in food production, income generation, management of natural resources, community organization and domestic responsibilities are essential for sustainable development.

Canada recognises that gender equality is not only a right in itself, but also a prerequisite for poverty reduction, peace, and sustainable development. Canada works closely with our partners to support women's economic empowerment; women smallholder farmers; women's access to and control of natural resources, especially land; and the inclusion of gender equality in disaster risk reduction activities.
Mr. Chair,

If the practice of sustainability is the bridge between our collective past, present and future, then it is time that we cross that bridge and forge a more sustainable vision that will let us address global challenges together.

Thank you.