STATEMENT

BY

THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

68TH SESSION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 11, 2013

Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor during this session of the Second Committee, we wish to join other delegations in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our delegation support and cooperation.

Albania has aligned itself with the statement made by the European Union. I will therefore concentrate on a few remarks on our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania has fully embraced MDGs since their inception at the Millennium Declaration of the 2000 World Summit. They have been a tool for various national stakeholders to discuss, prioritize, advocate for development as well as for the government to build support from the bottom up, to assess local poverty challenges and to serve as an engine for comprehensive development.

While keeping up with the achievement of our own MDGs in order to contribute to the global ones, we very much welcome the push towards their full realization within the 2015 deadline, as stated in the Outcome Document of the Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs, held here a couple of weeks ago.

While we are walking the last mile in achieving MDGs, I would like to point out that Albania was among those countries that organized a national consultation process on the post-2015 development agenda, otherwise rightly qualified as the unprecedented global conversation, in order to push for a strong and legitimate successor framework that combines development and sustainability. As work here is underway to define the sustainable development goals, the consultation process is feeding with a valuable input in better outlining the world we want.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania welcomes the institutional reform at the United Nations, through the establishment of the High Level Political Forum and the recent outcome of the reform on the strengthening of ECOSOC. These two important measures are very much expected to boost the development of a sustainable agenda and the integration of the three pillars of the sustainable development, namely, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection. Based on a great deal of arguments invested in bringing forward and finding the relation between the two processes, we are confident that their work will result in complementarities and cohesiveness.

Albania is looking forward to the implementation of the ECOSOC reform and we are committed to an empowered Council that will live up to the role given to it by the Charter of the United Nations and the Rio Outcome Document and to the trust that member states invested to its strengthening.
Mr. Chairman,

We are all witnesses that the development cooperation landscape has changed tremendously in the last decades. Developing countries have been invigorated in their own rights to drive their own development agenda. They have become aware of their own potentials and resources. Many have moved up to their development scale by putting to use best practices and diversified mechanisms or forms of development cooperation.

At the same time, member states have become aware that they need a renewed United Nations, one that responds coherently and efficiently to countries’ national priorities and needs. A United Nations that aligns fully with countries’ development agenda, a United Nations that delivers on the designed programmes of cooperation and, a United Nations that responds swiftly to this renewed cooperation with governments at the front seat.

The reaction of the United Nations to the calls of governments for responsiveness and cohesiveness has been somewhat slow throughout the years. Lengthy procedures and a slow pace to embrace reform have impaired the ability to deliver results. It was against this backdrop that the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review was discussed and adopted in 2012, in order to empower member states to follow up closely on the process of reform for a more coherent and efficient United Nations development system. At the same time, QCPR was a breakthrough revelation of the truth that the sum of the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts. It confirmed that a platform for horizontal accountability of the United Nations development system as a whole is complimentary to the vertical lines of accountability of its own constitutive parts and must be accounted for.

Therefore, close monitoring of the QCPR implementation is of paramount importance to follow up on the repositioning and deliverance of the United Nations Development System. We should continue to keep it high in our agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania has experienced firsthand a new and transformative relation with the United Nations, through the Delivering as One approach. For us, and we think for an ever increasing number of countries, Delivering as One constitutes a strategic and forthcoming cooperation and the most productive coordination exercise ever among the Government, its development partners and the United Nations presence in the country. We have extensively shared that experience with others around the globe, and we believe that with the latest focus on results, the Delivering as One pertains to the ways of changing once and forever the way UN delivers the development assistance.

Thank you.