Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations in New York

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Statement
H.E. František Ružička
Permanent Representative
Ambassador

at the 65th Plenary Session of the General Assembly

Joint Debate

on the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
on Sustainable Development Financing

New York, 8 December 2014
Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Delivering this statement I align myself with the statement delivered by the EU.

- Let me express my gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this debate on the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. Being member of that Committee I had the pleasure to work closely with other experts. And as such, I would very highly command the expertise, professionalism and drive of all members of the Committee to look for solutions that may help us to address global challenges we face.

- Slovakia appreciates the reflection of the work of the Committee in the Synthesis Report of the Secretary General as presented last Thursday (December, 4th).

- The Committee had an ambitious mandate based on the outcome of the Rio+20 – to propose an option based strategy for sustainable financing of sustainable development. Yes, indeed – sustainability is the first key word for the future we want.

- The report is non-prescriptive, proposing many policy options that can be easily tailored to the needs of countries and suggests partnerships for development financing. The report expanded the Monterrey and incorporated combination of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

- Inclusivity is the second important element. The report embodies the views of its members from various geographical groups. Participation of experts from all corners of the world and their contributions as well as regional consultations enabled the Committee to take into consideration the particularities of regions and countries. It took on board many suggestions from other stakeholders, civil society and business sector as well.
• It is important to respect that each country has primary responsibility for its own development. Country ownership and leadership along with a supportive international environment should be at the forefront of development financing. Thus third key point is national ownership and responsibility.

• The Rio+20 Summit underlined the need for creative approaches to global financing for sustainable development. This topic was carefully considered by the Expert Committee, which identified a new long-term sustainable development financing strategy, by including all possible resources – domestic and international, public and private, as well as modalities for their blending.

• The Expert’s Committee identified domestic resources as key source for governments to design their national financial plans and their sovereignty to prepare national strategies.

• It is evident from the Committee Report that the private sector has an important role to play to maximise financial flows. Many developing countries have developed over the past years an efficient system of domestically mobilized resources and private capital. This is a sign of progress and success.

• Nevertheless - ODA remains and important and catalytic element in the development financing, particularly for least developed countries. We have to pay more attention to the most vulnerable countries and the needs of countries in special situations, such as LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, which face different – more challenging - conditions with respect to financing options. Aid allocations to these countries should take into account national development priorities, vulnerabilities and special needs.

• We believe that the report may serve as an important input to the preparations for the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development. It highlights the major changes in the global context that will be relevant for a future financing framework, including economic and environmental issues.
• In order to mobilize large-scale financing for development, we need more than ever innovative public-private partnerships. We need new partnerships for new innovative instruments of financing and we endorse the dialogue between the UN system and relevant stakeholders as an important tool for enhancing result-oriented cooperation.

• Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that the proposals presented in the Committee’s Report will provide a good basis for future discussion on sustainable development financing. Slovakia will stay actively engaged in the discussions on the sustainable development financing bearing in mind the importance of a new post-2015 agenda.

I thank you for your attention.