Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first opportunity for my Delegation to speak at the Second Committee, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau for your election.

Mr. Chairman,

The International Community’s quest towards poverty eradication has reached an unprecedented moment of urgency. The Government of Malta believes that the global eradication of poverty needs to remain a priority for the international community. Malta welcomes the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government during the MDG Special Event on 25 September 2013 in reinforcing their efforts in accelerating the progress in achieving the MDGs. We believe that a common approach for a post-2015 framework would provide a coherent and comprehensive response to the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Malta welcomes the reduction in global poverty and hunger. However, Malta remains concerned about the significant disparities between regions and countries. We are conscious of the special challenges and needs of the developing countries and that, despite some impressive progress, some countries remain off track in meeting the MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

Eradication of poverty is a multi-faceted issue that needs to be tackled through a variety of actions, primarily through empowerment of all men and women through decent education, basic healthcare, nutritious food, clean water and access to energy infrastructure so that they can reach their full potential. Another essential element is peace and stability. Without these elements, millions of people will not be alleviated from poverty, but rather forced to endure dismal conditions for many more years.
Mr. Chairman,

Malta encourages developing countries to continue to invest to prevent environmental degradation to avert climate change calamities in the future. Malta notes with concern the loss of wealth and progress as a result of natural disasters which could completely destroy years of painstaking economic development.

My Delegation continues to believe that supporting poorer countries to achieve higher economic growth and welfare is beneficial to all and is not achieved at the expense of others. Malta will continue to favour free and open markets for goods with beneficial terms in order to support global economic expansion. We recall that the Rio+20 Outcome document identifies strengthening international cooperation, including the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries, as one of the main areas of action in establishing a green economy and to eradicate poverty as mutually agreed and respecting intellectual property rights.

Malta was pleased to honour its commitments in the climate change initiative agreed within the ambit of the United Nations a few years ago. It was a first step in providing special financing in projects to alleviate the pressure on the environment through a reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Such initiatives have multiple benefits. Such commitments reduce environmental risks, lower the incidence of natural calamities, improve health conditions, raise the level of welfare and reduce early mortalities.

Mr. Chairman,

Malta notes the ongoing work under the aegis of the United Nations to find other avenues of financing for development including the contributions from the private sector and trust funds. In line with most other countries Malta believes that new funding sources are required to widen the ambit of official development assistance to meet an ever widening agenda to achieve future goals.

Malta also supported the United Nations first decade for the eradication of poverty and made every effort possible to achieve its allocated goals. Malta will fully endorse the second decade for the eradication of poverty and will continue to provide resources to reach its goals. We endorse the work and conclusions of the Commission for Social Development in promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all. This is considered to be the bed rock for the realisation of one of the most important of the Millennium Development Goals which could serve as a benchmark for a results oriented approach.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the United Nations and the World Bank for their initiatives in bringing to fruition international agreements for the transfer of funds and technical assistance from highly developed to developing countries. Malta also congratulates the United Nations’ organisations for their initiatives to provide humanitarian assistance when needed and its agencies in taking over the administrative and humanitarian issues related to migration movements.

Malta will continue to work closely with the United Nations and its agencies in supporting development assistance and humanitarian efforts in its drive to reduce gaps in welfare between poor and rich countries.

I thank you Mr. Chairman