

STATEMENT TO HLPF
30 JUNE 2014

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is James Collins. I am a UN representative to the UN of the International Council on Social Welfare.

In attending the 12 sessions of the Open Working Group on SDGs and this panel today, I have been struck by the ambiguity in the use of the term “universal” in relation to the post-2015 agenda. Some, like the Moderator today, apply the term to Member-States: that the agenda applies to all 193 of them; others apply it to peoples: that the agenda covers all people of all ages and abilities. I believe both uses are correct.

I request, therefore, that this dual nature of the term “universal” be recognized and made explicit in the outcome documents of this 2nd session of the HLPF and of the Open Working Group on SDGs.

Only if the post-2015 agenda applies universally to all Member-States and to all people of all ages and abilities can the long-term goal stated by Ambassador Körösi of improving the quality of life for all be achieved.

Thank you.