

Second Drafting Session of the Third International Conference on FfD:

Statement by Mr. John Hurley, U.S. Lead FfD Negotiator

FfD Opening Statement
(As Prepared)

Co-Facilitators Excellencies, Colleagues,

We'd like to start by thanking the Co-Facilitators and their staffs from the Missions of Guyana and Norway for their hard work in drafting the zero draft, as well as the UN Secretariat staff for organizing this week's discussion. We commend the significant efforts of the Co-Facilitators in developing a document that provides the basis for our discussion. We have a starting point, but significant work remains and we think the current draft requires substantial strengthening to bring us to a successful outcome in July.

We begin this conversation today at a moment of tremendous opportunity, a moment when we are compelled to reflect, as our President did in this year's State of the Union, on "who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come."

We appreciate the broad-based recognition that inclusion—leaving no one behind—is central to both SD and post-2015 conversations. However, while we recognize the considerable progress achieved since Monterrey, notably in halving rates of extreme poverty, too many HAVE been left behind in the path towards prosperity. Focusing on inclusion and the needs of people in fragile situations must therefore be a key tenet of our approach to sustainable development.

The sheer numbers are a call to action: about 1.2 billion people live in countries affected by fragility; and we know that conflict and violence are the enemies of development and can also reverse years of development gains. If we are to meet our commitment to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030, we must make a concerted effort to address the specific needs of fragile and conflict-affected states.

lasting development outcomes for our citizens, economies, and environment. With our collective eyes on the prize, we can rise above our differences – which undoubtedly exist – and find common ground on those principles and ideas that will have most impact in reaching our shared vision .