The Permanent Mission of Austria presents its compliments to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and, in reference to a letter (Ref: ECE/OES/2014/168 dated 16 July 2014) by His Excellency Michael Møller, then Acting Executive Secretary of the UNECE, has the honour to transmit below a general message related to the questionnaire “Towards an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Perspectives from the UNECE Region”.

Austria thanks the UNECE for the questionnaire regarding “An Accountability Framework for the post-2015 Development Agenda”. Regarding our views on the concrete structure and layout of the foreseen accountability mechanism to verify progress towards implementation of the future post-2015 development goals at the global, regional and national levels, we wish to await the exchanges and negotiations to take place in the coming year and proposals on this accountability mechanism that will be made by different stakeholders.

As a general note, we are of the view that it will be paramount to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of resources that such an accountability mechanism should be coherent with (and vice versa) and draw – to the extent possible and useful – from existing mechanisms at the regional and global levels. On the one hand, pre-existing data and information from these mechanisms could be used, on the other hand, mechanisms that prove to work well could be used as best practice examples for devising a post-2015 accountability mechanism. Since the post-2015 development agenda is foreseen to be a comprehensive and globally applicable agenda, it will be important to also take the post-2015 goals and their implementation into account in existing mechanisms in future.

Moreover, in order to ensure ownership and mutual accountability, we are of the view that development partners should have an important role in the accountability mechanism; a peer review model could prove a useful approach or element of the accountability mechanism.
The Permanent Mission of Austria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 22 August 2014

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