Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to provide an input to this debate. I am pleased to provide the perspective of employers.

We are still in the negotiating phase of structuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is hard to pin down exactly what will be monitored as final agreement on the proposed goals and targets has not yet been reached.

Business representatives have risen to the challenge and have been involved in the many pathways to influence discussions on SDGs.

There is the well-known business adage of “what gets measured gets done”. An effective monitoring and accountability requires that the goals be measurable. And this requires accessible and quality data systems. Therefore strengthening the data collection and analysis capacity of countries shall be a priority.

The responses to the accountability questionnaires highlighted that in order to perform its duty the monitoring and accountability mechanism shall be equipped with the following features:

- Build on existing mechanisms,
- Advance integration and coherence,
- Be participatory, inclusive and transparent,
- Preserve multi-level bottom-up approach,
- Base on incentives,
- Provide country ownership,
Ensure a central role for UN,

I would like to add 2 more features

- Be result oriented,
- Provide quality and disaggregated data.

The regional level is very important in giving new lenses on the locational specificities and needs for sustainable development. It will make visible who is involved, what they are doing and in what context, to provide information of workable and effective developments. It will enable conditions for transferability to be explored and provide evidence for debate and decisions.

In our view further analysis and discussion are needed with regards to the different possible roles at the regional level, as institutions at the regional level are functioning differently in each region, with different levels of capacity, resources and linkages with other regional actors.

The regional level could have a role in preparation and providing support for the national level processes.

The regional level could focus on;

- data collection, capacity-building, collating and aggregating national information/data and reports,
- analysis for discussion at regional preparatory meetings in view of global meetings at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF),
- supporting countries in preparing for sharing their lessons learned at the global level

In order to be successful in a rapidly changing world, monitoring and reporting actions aimed at delivering the Post 2015 Agenda must shift from retrospective accounting to more real time, real context, and real actor engagement.
The imperative for business will be to engage them in monitoring and accountability without imposing bureaucratic burdens that detract from motivating them towards innovative solutions.

The social dialogue among workers and employers can be a useful tool regarding the monitoring process and increasing the skills through training can also contribute to the regional endeavours. The NGO’s working not necessarily but preferably on a regional basis in the area can also provide good coordination, as in the example of south-north migration.

Business is playing a supportive role since the beginning of the Post 2015 process. It is critical for the business perspective that the role of business in the society is understood and respected. Business is ready and willing to contribute to the global sustainable development however its’ main “raison d’être” is doing business. This is why we should avoid creating new burdens and responsibilities, including monitoring and reporting on governmental responsibilities, on business.

Business will play its part but there are responsibilities on other stakeholders. Business will provide the solutions on sustainability challenges and success can be enhanced by business working in partnership with others.

Thank you very much for your attention.