Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present the results of the Post 2015 national consultations that were undertaken in Montenegro in period 2013-2014.

We believe that overall accountability mechanism is necessary in order to ensure approachable mechanism for the monitoring of the performance of the governments in our countries. In that sense, one of the most important challenges for Montenegrin society is continual strengthening of the trust of citizens in the governance performances of the public administration, at national and local level.

Since improvement of the governance performances should remain one of the most relevant priority, we have to provide continual progress. Therefore there is a need to apply concrete and widely applicable governance tools such as: better access to information and improved participation of all relevant stakeholders, both in creation of public policies and monitoring of their implementation and continual strengthening of the communication skills. Being aware of the challenges Member States to UN face with in shaping the process that would lead to definition of the future development agenda, Montenegro decided to launch the process of national consultations on post-2015 development goals. Sharing information on the global process and expected challenges Montenegrin Government and UN system in Montenegro provided the opportunity to citizens to describe “what kind of Montenegro and what kind of world they want to live in.”

The UN system in Montenegro has organized public consultations in the period between December 2012 and April 2013. Mechanisms that were applied include face-to-face interviews, focus groups, workshops and the most popular and widely acceptable on-line consultations. More than 8,000 people of Montenegro or 1.3% of the population took participation what has resulted in identification of eight (8) priorities that, in their opinion, are most important for the future they want:

1) Provide economic growth, significant reduction of unemployment, income generation and equal regional development
2) Fighting crime, corruption and nepotism
3) Improving health protection  
4) Strengthen the equality at all levels  
5) Provide Environmental sustainability  
6) Enable infrastructure development  
7) Improve education performances and provide education for all  
8) Strengthen national values and specificities.

Such identified priorities corresponded to the challenges and priorities of the national policy of sustainable development. By sending a clear message to decision-makers, stakeholders have enabled a clearer understanding of the weaknesses of the sectoral policies, as well as the needs in providing a stronger and more effective sectoral coordination and more effective elimination of the consequences of the economic crisis.

At the same time results of the consultations provided input to the current process of revision of the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of Montenegro, in particular in regard to the priorities of integration of Montenegro into EU and NATO as a key national priority, and proper transfer of the outcome of Rio + 20 Summit, and the ongoing negotiations on Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda.

After the first phase, in April Montenegro started the second phase of the consultations with the aim to foster national dialogue and verify existing participatory monitoring mechanisms in the country. In regard to that stakeholder consultations have been launched in order to check the best available mechanisms. Among others most relevant is participatory monitoring. Since unemployment was recognised as the most relevant topic by citizens and having in mind MDG target to reduce unemployment to 9% by 2015, we have decided to test this mechanism in analyzing employment trends in the field of tourism. The results will be available by the end of October based on which there will be decision to provide further usage of this mechanism in developing new policies, either to continue implementation of the existing ones.

Thus implemented process revealed a number of features that interactivity and participation of civil society provides in anticipation and realistic assessment of the weaknesses of the system of public governance. At the same time this kind of participatory process enables wide range of stakeholder groups to timely participate in developing and implementing public policies. This is particularly relevant under circumstances we have in Montenegro where in despite to the good legislation and properly defined goals and priorities of public policies, we are still witnessing unsatisfactory results, or lack of efficiency of the governance system.

Therefore it will be a challenge to translate the lessons learned through this process into standard procedures. This is also a precondition for new development goals to be embraced locally, which is the most appropriate route to their attainment.
Exchange of different national experiences and support to transfer of best practices and results should be the platform for strengthening the trust and political commitment to the achievement of the agreement on post 2015 development agenda. Organization of the regular global debates and meetings with participation of the representatives at highest political level should make us closer to greener, climate resilient and more sustainable post 2015 development future.

I thank you for your attention.