

United Nations Summit
Interactive Dialogue 5
Accountable and Inclusive Institutions
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**Statement of Craig Mokhiber,
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Madame Chair, Excellencies, something extraordinary has happened in these halls this week.

The new 2030 Agenda, while adopted by Member States, is in fact an affirmation of the fundamental message manifest in recent years in the social movements of *people* from Tunis to Wall Street, from the Amazon to the Pacific Islands, and from Athens to Johannesburg.

The message that development—*real* development-- is not merely aggregate measures of GDP, not even the narrow set of socio-economic indicators that was the MDGs, but rather that real development is *freedom from fear and freedom from want for all people without discrimination*.

Ladies and gentlemen, now, for the first time in history, freedom from fear has a home in the international development agenda, its elements integrated across the agenda, and emphasized in Goal 16.

Here we find the imperatives of personal security, of justice and redress, of political participation, and the rule of law at all levels.

And let us finally recognize, Madame Chair that this is not only a normative obligation for all Member States of the United Nations, but it is also a practical necessity for success in any genuine sustainable development effort.

As we have often recalled, Tunisia was lauded as an MDG success story, even as the courageous people of that nation were taking to the streets to declare that a model that ignored fundamental freedoms and honest state institutions was not worthy of such declarations, and would not be sustained.

Today, thanks to the voices of States from all regions, experts from all disciplines, civil society of every stripe, the UN system, and millions of people everywhere, we are turning the page on these old approaches-- and embracing

a new, rights-based, participatory model of accountability of governments and the private sector to the *people*.

Equally crucial, this is a model aligned with international standards for human rights and fundamental freedoms—which necessarily includes freedom of information, expression, assembly, association, and movement.

It implies the fair administration of justice, democratic decision making, freedom from torture, from extra-legal executions, and from arbitrary arrest and detention.

And this means for *all* people—women and girls, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and youth, people of African descent, LGBTI people, and people living in poverty.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, we have a long way to go to get to realize this vision. And, if we are to succeed, accountability will be key.

Let me therefore add that this is necessarily a model with the rule of law at its heart.

To be clear, I speak here not of mere rule *by* law, which, all-too-often in history has shown itself to be nothing more than the modus operandi of repression across the globe and across the years. But rather rule *of* law, as defined by international human rights standards.

This is a rule of law that binds all of us, in both the public and the private sectors. Institutions of law enforcement and institutions of finance, at the national level and at the international level.

As such, ladies and gentlemen, we embrace this new Agenda as one of freedom from fear and freedom from want for all people, without discrimination.

I thank you.
