



**Permanent Mission of The State of Eritrea
To the United Nations, New York**

Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Girma Asmerom

**Special Envoy of the President and
Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations**

during

G77 Ministerial Meeting

“Governance of Natural Resources and Industrialization”

28-29 November 2014, Tarija, Bolivia

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its leadership as the current Chair of G77 and China, and for hosting the Meeting of Ministers of Industrialization and counterparts on the issue of Governance of Natural Resources and Industrialization.

Exchanging views on how we can maximize utilization of our resources in a sustainable way to address our developmental challenges and to the benefit of our people is important. In this spirit, my country, Eritrea, is sharing its policies, actions and experiences on Governance of Natural Resources and Industrialization.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation views endowments in natural resources as vital assets that contributes towards the lifting of millions of people out of poverty. Employing of good governance in the control, management and trade of natural resources and equitable access to natural resources become imperative in ensuring an inclusive economic growth that leaves no people, community or society behind.

Eritrea's developmental strategy is based on the principle that every citizen is entitled to equal access to the country's resources as well as opportunities. The State and the government have the duty to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of these resources for the benefit of the people. As a result all mineral resources in Eritrea are public property.

As part of the Arabian Nubian Shield, 60% of the Eritrean territory is covered by Greenstone volcano sedimentary rocks known to be favorable host to several metallic Minerals.

Eritrea's natural mineral resources include, Gold, Copper, Zinc, Potash, Cement, Gypsum, Granite, Marble, Ceramics, Limestone, Iron Ore, Oil and natural Gas.

Eritrea's peaceful and politically stable and corruption free environment as well as attractive investment law, augured by strong commitment of the government to develop its extractive industry, has already attracted 17 Companies from different countries. There is emphasis on equal partnership and equitable share of benefits. The host state must derive real benefit from the exploration and use of its resources while recognizing that the investor must also earn reasonable rate of return on its investment. As a result, Eritrea has succeeded in raising its share to up to 40 to 50 percent in the mining sector.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to the Extractive Industry, endowed with 1,200 kms of coastline and more than 350 islands at the Red Sea, Eritrea has the potential of producing 70,000 to 80,000 mt of Fish and other Marine Resources without any damage to the marine environment.

Tourism, Port Services and Manufacturing Sectors, including Food Security Agricultural Projects are also at a take-off stage. If managed and utilized properly, these sectors will definitely and significantly contribute to Eritrea's poverty eradication and post-2015 development agenda.

When we talk about the issue of Governance of Natural Resources and Industrialization, it is important not to forget the development of Human Capital. Without capacity building and transfer of technology, natural resources will not be extracted and industrialization will not be achieved. In this regard, the government has devoted the lion's share of its budget to education and development of technical skills. It is providing free basic social services, in particular in the education and health sectors. This is one way of properly utilizing the revenues earned from the extractive industry and other sectors of the economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by affirming my delegation's full commitment to enhancing solidarity, cooperation and partnership in our common endeavor towards better Governance of Natural Resources and Industrialization.

I thank you Mr. Chairman