

**INTERVENTION BY MR. NOEL E. KAGANDA, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE CLOSING SESSION
OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS,
NEW YORK, 19 JULY 2014**

I thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

Let me also take this opportunity to commend you and your Co-Chair for the able manner in which you presided over the work of this Open Working Group.

Clearly, it was not easy task, to listen, make sense, digest and reflect thousands of views, some of which in red lines, presented by Member States and Civil Society.

We truly admire and appreciate your innovative and forward-looking approach; and I should add, perseverance, which has brought us closer to the finish line. We also commend your team for the hard work and loyalty!

We note with appreciation that this process has been truly inclusive. Even after a long day and night of constant engagement, the Civil Society has not abandoned us. Some have assured my delegation that we are in this together, come what may! Let me place on record our gratitude for their valuable inputs to our deliberations.

That said however, I should also mention that there are areas and issues, which regrettably could not be resolved during the course of our work. We wish to express particular concern on reference to word “gender” on paragraph 17 of the Chapeau. We are all aware that the agreed word is “Sex”, as affirmed in the Rio + 20 Outcome Document.

Similarly, we express concern on target 5.6, whose formulation has clearly divided this house.

We are particularly concerned that the proposal by my delegation, the African Group and the G77 + China on MOI 13a, was not taken into account, despite the fact that it is a language from paragraph 191 of the Rio + 20 Outcome Document.

Truly, we cannot claim to have achieved a meaningful consensus under these circumstances!

So as we prepare to conclude this OWG, I feel like we have one last opportunity to revisit some if not all of these contentious issues and make the necessary amends.

If that is not possible, we should ensure that our report to the General Assembly clearly reflects these issues, which my delegation strongly believe, will be subjected to further consideration during the upcoming intergovernmental Negotiations on post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, my delegation does not believe that we labored in vain. The text before us is as good as it will get for now. In that spirit, we would not prevent its adoption, knowing to well that, the end of this journey is the beginning of the next!

I thank you.