

**ONE DAY INTERSESSIONAL MEETING BETWEEN MAJOR
GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OPEN
WORKING GROUP ON SDGs
22 November, 2013**



Summary Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Secretariat:

- Chantal line Carpenters, UNDESA – stakeholder engagement for intersessionals coordinator
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Stakeholder Engagement Support:

- Jeannet Lingán, Stakeholder Forum -support, coordination of report and video interviews
- Daniel Coviello, Stakeholder Forum -rapporteur
- Joe Landman, CIVICUS -rapporteur

Steering Committee Members

- Louise Kanthrow, International Chamber of Commerce, Business and Industry Major Group
- Chris Dekki, Pax Romana, Children and Youth Major Group
- Galina Angarova, Pacific Environment, Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Grace Balawag, Tebtebba, Indigenous Peoples (alternate)
- Maruxa Cardama, Communitas, Local Authorities Major Group
- Gisbert Glaser, ICSU, Scientific and Technological Community Major Group
- Sascha Gabizon, WECF, Women Major Group
- Matt Simonds, TUAC, Workers and Trade Unions Major Group
- Carlos Marentes, Via campesina, Farmers Major Group
- Sameer Dosani, Action Aid-India, NGOs Major Group
- Vladimir Cuk, International Disability Alliance, Disability Community
- Gill Greer, Volunteer Service Abroad - New Zealand, Volunteers
- Ben Ngutu, Voluntary Service Overseas Jitolee – Kenya, Volunteers (alternate)
- Erica Dhar, AARP, aging community
- Celine Paramindayil, Medical Mission Sisters, Financing for Development Committee
- Paul Quintos, IBON & Peoples' Goals, social movements
- Hemsing Hurrinag, Development Indian Ocean Network, Beyond-2015
- Debra Jones, Save the Children, Beyond-2015 (alternate)
- Marta Benavides, GCAP
- Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force (GCAP) (alternate)

BACKGROUND

The Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requested the United Nations Secretariat to organise two one-day events between Major Groups and other stakeholders and the Open Working Group on SDGs. In response to this request, a secretariat, coordinated by the Division of Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA/DSD) was set up.

The Secretariat for these intersessionals led the preparation of the first intersessional event, including by hosting the pre-consultation on its website, coordinating the participation of a stakeholders' steering committee, and acted as the coordination point with Open Working Group Co-Chairs and other Member States. Additionally, Stakeholder Forum provided technical and logistical support to the work undertaken by the secretariat.

The **Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group reaffirmed their commitment** to be present and chair the two events, agreed to write to all Member States to request their presence and circulate the outcome of the 22nd November inter-sessional at the fifth session of the OWG (25-27 November).

The Co-Chairs also drew attention to their interim report¹ summarising the result of their stocktaking discussions so far and some reflections on the way forward. They also highlighted the issue notes and documents submitted to the OWG so far² and the issues covered in their programme of work³.

PREPARATORY WORK

The preparatory activities for the intersessionals started in June 2013. The Secretariat prepared a concept note based on a 'crowd-sourcing exercise' to collect stakeholders' proposals on themes and modalities for the intersessionals. The concept note (road map) for the organisation of these events was also translated into French and Spanish and was circulated for comments among Major Groups, Post-2015 networks and other stakeholders.

The concept note proposed modalities for stakeholder engagement, including the formation of a steering committee composed by members representing up to nine of the Major Groups⁴ plus others stakeholders from Post-2015 networks and/or those listed in paragraph 16 of Resolution A/67/L.62⁵.

¹ Read the OWG interim report here: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/941&Lang=E

² You can read all the reports, statements and briefing notes submitted to the OWG here: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

³ OWG topics and programme of work is published here: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1778Pow2805.pdf>

⁴ For more information about Major Groups please follow this link: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/orgpartners.html>

⁵ '[...] such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development [...]' See the resolution here: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/67/letters/pdf/Sustainable%20Development%20-%20HL%20Political%20Forum%20-%201%20July%202013.pdf>

During the preparatory activities, the different stakeholder groups, nominated their representatives for the steering committee. The selected steering committee members were in charge of defining the objectives, themes and panellists for the first intersessional. Additionally, members of the steering committee volunteered to form drafting teams to prepare background papers for each of the thematic sessions.

The Secretariat convened these inputs through three conference calls and via e-mail exchange. Steering Committee members organised their inputs and participation in consultation with their members.

ONE DAY INTERSESSIONAL MEETING BETWEEN MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS

22 November, 2013 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

SUMMARY REPORT

The first intersessional between the Open Working Group on SDGs and major groups and other stakeholders was held at the UN Headquarters on the 22nd of November. More than 300 of participants representing a diverse range of stakeholder groups were present during the session. The session was also streamed live through United Nations Web TV site⁶.

The event was structured in four sessions, corresponding to one cross-cutting theme relevant for the current discussions of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on SDGs shared the chairmanship of the sessions with stakeholders' representatives.

Additionally, steering committee members, produced a Major Groups and other stakeholders' messages document, drawing from the panel discussions of this first intersessional. The messages were presented at the Fifth session of the Open Working Group on 25 November.

THEMATIC SESSIONS OF FIRST INTERSESSIONAL

1. Rights-based SDGs that encompasses all dimensions of Sustainable Development
2. How the Sustainable Development Goals can eliminate inequalities and poverty
3. Good governance, enabling environment and institutions at the core of implementing SDGs
4. Designing SDGs that foster human development within planetary boundaries
5. (including climate change and natural resources management)

This summary report reflects a synthesis of the discussions during the event's four sessions and is based on the notes taken by event *rapporteurs*⁷. The full agenda of the day can be found in annex 2 of this report.

⁶ <http://webtv.un.org/>

⁷ This has not been consulted with, or endorsed by the Major Groups and Stakeholders' constituencies.

MORNING (9:30 – 13:00)

Opening remarks

The welcome and opening remarks were provided by Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi (Hungarian co-chair of the OWG on SDGs), Sasha Gabizon (Women Major Group) and Jeff Huffines (NGO Major Group) representing Major Groups and other stakeholders, and Nikhil Seth (Director of the Division of Sustainable Development of UNDESA) on behalf of the secretariat.

- **Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi:**
 - Our common future is too important not to include more actors in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.
 - It is our job to have ambitious and transformative goals that are also practical and applicable.
 - It is always more productive and rewarding to have an evidence based conversation.
 - We stand to benefit not only from your wealth of knowledge but also from your passion as well.
 - We will be please to circulate the outcome of this intersessional at the 5th OWG on SDGs.
 - We recognize that life does not recognize silos - systems that operate in isolation from others - and this fact needs to be incorporated into our discussions.

- **Nikhil Seth:**
 - Your input and valuable suggestions need to be brought to the attention of governments to bring the change we all want to see.
 - We support the OWG and MG&OS to heighten and amplify your voices.

- **Sascha Gabizon:**
 - Encouraged stakeholders to give their input on how to deal with cross cutting issues and informed that the outcome document would reflect the discussions of the intersessional.

10:15 – 11:30 First Session:

Rights Based SDGs that encompass all dimensions of Sustainable Development

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary) and Sameer Dosani (Actionaid)

Panellists:

- Jan Van de Venis, Human Rights Law
- Ignacio Saiz, Economic and Social Rights
- Alejandra Scampini, AWIT (Women Major Group);
- Norine Kennedy: USCIB, (Business & Industry Major Group)

Panel Discussion

- **Jan Van de Venis, Human Rights Law**
 - Human rights traditionally are seen in the 'social' block of development, but are increasingly being seen as relevant in the 'economic' and 'environment' block of development as well.
 - Human right to a healthy environment is the foundation of the development agenda.
 - Life, air, water and sanitation, food and ending of poverty - these are all recognised as crucial foundation of sustainable development in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.
 - SDG defenders will become human rights defenders. We just need to integrate human rights at the base of the SDGs.

- **Ignacio Saiz, Economic and Social Rights**
 - The integration of human rights into the SDGs is not a question of if, it is a question of how.
 - Human Rights should not be shoehorned into one goal, but incorporated into all - they should be the normative framework for the SDGs.
 - The post-2015 agenda must include freedom of information and some governments have led the way in this charge.
 - All goals must be targeted to decrease inequality, and the use of disaggregated data is a crucial method of ensuring that this happens.
 - Accountability is more than just monitoring. A central message must hold multilateral banks more accountable on how their actions respect and protect human rights.

- **Alejandra Scampini, AWIT (Women Major Group)**
 - There is a consensus that the SDGs should be based on a Human Rights agenda, but there is a need for a bold shift in politics outside the room to ensure this.
 - Why is there no political conviction to defend all human rights?
 - Who is benefiting from policies that undermine human rights and the sustainability of the planet?
 - Access, equity and power are at the centre of development debates.
 - The recognition and respect of human rights should be state obligations and not voluntary choices.
 - How can we achieve this? We need to focus on people, and specific groups of people. They need to focus on the most marginalised, and ensure that they can participate in this process.
 - The Secretary General of the UN said that "no one should be left behind." SDGs based around Human Rights will help to achieve this underlying goal.

- **Norine Kennedy:**
 - Linking transparency and inclusive growth is crucial. There is a need to support policies that promote democratic values, freedom of speech and individual liberty. There is a crucial need to align corporate responsibility with ethical values, and to ensure that businesses comply with laws. A protect, respect and remedy framework needs to be integrated into the SDGs. SDGs need to be able to make a difference, and, at the heart of it, be achievable.

Questions and Answers Segment

- **Question: Ambassador Kőrösi:**
 - The corporate sector will be our partners in the implementation of the SDGs and we need to know who will respect human rights as they invest in projects that we agree upon. Would the corporate sector be ready to harmonize their company reporting systems on sustainability reporting?

Response: Norine Kennedy

- It will take time to have a unified corporate sustainability reporting system. Although, we are learning from each other to do whatever we can to make corporate sustainability reporting relevant and universal.

- **Rosa Lizarde: Feminist Task Force representing the Mining Group at the UN**
 - Ambassador Kőrösi previously asked for bold recommendations from NGOs and Civil Society. The Human Rights approach itself is a bold recommendation, as not all governments automatically recognise these. So as well as ensuring that businesses and people within countries conform to these human rights, it is crucial to ensure that other governments obey human too.

Response: Ignacio Saiz

- Human rights can be contorted by individuals, so yes, this is a crucial point.

- **Keton Kothari: Sight Savers NGO Major Group:**
 - Persons with disabilities were not included in the panel's discussion on marginalised groups, and this reflects the lack of attention persons with disabilities are receiving in this process. You should consider measurable targets and indicators that include persons with disabilities so these goals can be achieved for all.

Response: Ignacio Saiz:

- People with disabilities need to be much more visible in the outcome documents we produce and at the core of our discussions.

- **Philip Vergragt: Tellus Institute, NGO Major Group:**
 - We cannot only claim our rights, but should also ensure that we produce and consume responsibly.

Response: Jan Van de Venis

- The solution involves consumers and it should also include states. We need to have the right prices recognized in the products we buy.

- **Ed Barry: Sustainable World Initiative, NGO Major Group**
 - All people of the world should have basic needs met. What if there are not enough resources physically available to meet current needs? How can we balance the needs of people currently while respecting the human rights of future generations within the limits of ?

Response: Jan van de Venis

- There is a duty of more developed countries to develop a fair share policy.

- **Nicole Cardinal, Save the Children, NGO Major Group**
 - We need to ensure that human rights areas, that aren't conventionally covered by the development goals, are introduced. For instance, violence against children. Elimination rather than percentage reduction is essential.

Response: Ignacio Saiz

- Income inequality has historically been targeted by a specific goal. We must resist the noises that income inequality is too contentious an issue.

Response: Norine Kennedy

- If we were to make the Maslow Pyramid then we would put peace and security at the bottom of the pyramid. Next level would be sustainable and economic growth.

- **Rosy Pereyra: International Longevity Center Global Alliance, and Help Age International**
 - What is happening to the rights of older people, as well as women, children and indigenous people.

Response: Jan van de Venis

- Rights of older people are increasingly relevant, and they need access to all the same things that other groups need. Especially as the cohort of older people is increasing.

- **Quin McKew: Article 19:**
 - An enabling environment for civil societies to operate needs to be created. Accountability and governance need a specific indicator.

- **Member State Comment: Dominican Republic**
 - All the information is pertinent and important. I believe the aging issue needs to have greater importance in our discussions. Aging do not have the same needs as everyone.

- **Remarks by Ambassador Korosi: Ambassador of Hungary**
 - How do we address scarce resources and the needs of present and future generations struck me as a very important question. In my country, we have established an ombudsperson for future generations who will be independent from the government. Their main responsibility is to consider scarce resources and they will have a say in every major decision made by the government.

11:45-13:00 Session 2:

How the Sustainable Development Goals can eliminate inequalities and poverty

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary), Matt Simonds (Workers and Trade Unions Major Group) and Galina Angarova (Indigenous Peoples major Group)

Panellists:

- Rosy Pereyra: International Longevity Center Global Alliance, and Help Age International
- Stephanie Lanthier: Children and Youth Major Groups
- Kwabena Otoo: Workers and Trade Union Major Group
- Sean Reggee: TransBantu Zambia, Human Rights Activist LGBT

Opening remarks

- **Ambassador Kőrösi:**
 - Are we looking for something that will automatically act or are we looking for something that will inspire action? How will that inspiration trickle down to the people working on the ground?
- **Matt Simonds:**
 - Inequalities manifest themselves across different generations of families.
 - The major oversight of the MDG framework was inability to address inequality.

Panel Discussion

- **Rosy Pereyra, International Longevity Center Global Alliance, and Help Age International**
 - We will never be able to eliminate poverty or achieve sustainable development without incorporating the elderly.
 - Income inequality cannot be eradicated without looking at the other problems, such as education provision.
 - All countries should have a commitment to improve their Gini coefficient.
 - We have to tie in these targets with effective pressure on governments.
 - Elimination of the gender pay gap is absolutely essential.
 - One of the most effective paths out poverty is education and not only by the reduction of the wealthiest.
 - The SG has noted that we have to know how many inhabit the planet and how many there will be to come. Population and aging have social and political implications and the issue of aging is truly a cross cutting issue.
- **Stephanie Lanthier, Children and Youth Major Groups**
 - There are currently 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10-24 who do not have access to education.
 - Young people are vulnerable to inequalities due to structural barriers that limit their access to decision making processes.
 - We must adapt a development justice framework, based around people and human rights.

- Recommendations include increase access to quality education to girls and boys and access to non formal
 - Access to reproductive health education is essential.
 - We need to create decent employment opportunities for young people as a whole - ensuring that we include young people with disabilities.
 - All need to address the root causes of discrimination against young people.
 - We need to recognize that climate change is an issue that is of concern to future generations.
- **Kwabena Otoo, Workers and Trade Union Major Groups**
 - It isn't difficult to convince anyone that inequality needs to be reduced.
 - We need to ensure that the economic growth is shared amongst all people around the world in all countries.
 - This vision of unbridled economic growth is unsustainable.
 - There are practical and planetary limits that we need to recognize.
 - How do we redistribute wealth? Collective bargaining is crucial, as the decline of this is strongly linked to rising inequality.
 - It is important not just to have a minimum wage in place because we also need to have the minimum wages raised.
 - In Brazil, the raising of the minimum wage level periodically has been instrumental in reducing inequality.
- **Sean Reggee: TransBantu Zambia, Human Rights Activist LGBT**
 - There is a large prevalence of informal work and black market labour that promotes income inequality.
 - Comprehensive universal health - particularly sexual and reproductive - is crucial for all.
 - Transvestites are not recognized by their countries which makes them invisible and not included in policy decisions.
 - Violence against trans-people often goes undetected, which is unacceptable.
 - It is crucial that health services personnel that help transvestite people are protected from violence.

Question and Answers Segment

- **Celine, Medical Mission Sisters. NGO Major Group**
 - Stark reality of inequality has been laid bare. The shame attached to poverty needs to be reversed. What specific inequality strategies should be included in the SDGs?

Response: Kwabena Otoo

- Focus on economic poverty, by getting people access to productive employment. Need to democratize the workplace and allow people to decide

- **Kenyotto Jomes: Quaker Earthcare Witness:**
 - What are the SDGs doing that take into account the increase of immigration as global populations increase? Where are companies going to source their workforce from?
- **Vladimir Cuk: International Disability Alliance:**
 - The last SG report recommended that those with disabilities should be taken into account when designing the SDGs. Disability is a cross-cutting issue, persons with disabilities should be included with women and youth when designing new goals and that the disability

community does not want a stand-alone goal, but instead a goal covering a cross-cutting issue that is most relevant to persons with disabilities.

- **Carmen Giminez: USA Refugees and Immigrants**
 - Is there the possibility of establishing a panel to hold those countries who are negatively impacting inequality to account to the rest of the world. Venezuela and Cuba are moving backwards. People who usurp power are multiplying poverty.

- **Deborah Rogers: Women Environment Programme, Women Major Group:**
 - Do we need a standalone goal that addresses economic inequality?

Response: Rosy Pereyra: Goal of eliminating poverty will need to include economic inequality as a component.

- **Shany Nelson Zongo: MGCY and Indigenous Peoples, Long House Treaty Nations:** Recommend partnering with migration forum and indigenous groups to adequately gather data and understand the populations being affected by inequalities.
- **Jack Moss: AQUAFED:** Air, water, food, energy and land are essential for all forms of human life. Waste and pollution must be managed and the blame of pollution must not only be placed on industry. How do we achieve a balance of collective and individual rights?

Response: Kwabena Otoo: Everyone pollutes but some people pollute more than others.

- **Pinces Javertz , former UN Intern and Fellow:** With respect to the SE4ALL initiative, what is civil society's responsibility to follow up on commitments made at Rio+20?
- **Leida Rijnhout: ANPED, NGO Major Group:** Gap between the rich and poor is growing. This is the result of political decisions, not because of bad luck. 95% of economic growth gains go to the 1% rich people. Need for measures to stop this process. We can provide a list of ideas that provide solutions to this problem.

Response: Kwabena Otoo: Reducing poverty is simply not just about raising the bottom it is also about bringing down the top.

- **Sarah Gold: International Women's Health Coalition:** During 4th OWG, Sexual and reproductive health rights were mentioned by many member states, but do not appear in the final report.

Response: Ambassador Kőrösi: A concrete definition for Sexual and reproductive Health Rights needs to be provided. Beyond ideological differences in approaches there are currently different understandings of what SRHRs are. They have not been forgotten but there is a great deal of clarity that is needed when discussing this area.

○ **Member State Comment: Ethiopia**

- The concept of Human Rights changes over time, and is a malleable idea. Now, we are focusing on the new aspects of Human Rights that are proving to contribute to a lack of focus in society.

○ **Remarks by Ambassador Korosi**

- Most focused on economic inequalities although inequality has many different faces. Please bring concrete suggestions to the OWG on translating desire into action.

○ **Remarks by Nikhil Seth**

- Where are basic inequalities stemming from? Land ownership can be a source in India but the sources vary from country to country. We need a limited set of aspirational goals that can resonate clearly with the political establishment and civil society.

14:00 – 14:15

Special Briefing by the Office of the President of the General Assembly on the General Assembly events under the theme: Setting the Stage for the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Chair: Leida Rijnhout, Organising partner NGO Major Group

President of General Assembly Office Representative:

Jorge Laguna-Celis, Senior Advisor to the PGA on Sustainable Development, Post-2015 Development Agenda, and ECOSOC

- John Ashe, the current president of the General Assembly, wants to ensure that this whole process is transparent.
- A post-2015 development agenda that only speaks to governments is not enough. Parliamentarians are crucial participants in this process, alongside Civil Society and other stakeholders.
- There will be six high level events with certain themes that address the pressing issues we face going forward:
 - o What role should women, young and civil society in the new development agenda?
 - o How can we incorporate human rights and encourage the rule of law?
 - o How do we maximize the benefits of south-south cooperation
 - o How can we strengthen new and existing partnerships for better development outcomes?
 - o How do we promote stable and peaceful society so that all can benefit without living in fear?
 - o How do we address the system challenges of water, sanitation and sustainable energy?
- There are four platforms for engagement that need to continue to be utilized including: ECOSOC, HLPF, DPI, UN-NGLS.
- There is a need to use technology and social media effectively to ensure that the agenda is representative of all stakeholders around the world.

Questions and Answers Segment

- Will regional meetings be incorporated into the consultations?
- Is there any way to bridge the gap and have their voices be heard by member states?
- Can you please expand on opportunities of civil society participation past 2014?

Responses

- PGA is respectful of the autonomy of the OWG and events will occur after the end of the group. This is so that governments can concentrate and focus their efforts on this area in time for September 2014.
- The PGA wishes to utilize existing channels of communication that engages various regions' concerns.
- Engaging with parliamentarians is essential if civil society wishes to influence their respective governments' agendas.

14:30 – 15:45

Good governance, enabling environment and institutions at the core of implementing SDGs

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Kamau and Debra Jones and Marta Benavides Panellists:

- Myrna Cunningham: Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Aliya Celik, UCLG, Local Authorities Major Group
- Jeff Huffines: CIVICUS, NGO Major Group

Panel Discussion

- **Myrna Cunningham: Indigenous Peoples Major Group**

- Inequality and poverty are driven by social factors - including discrimination and lack of participation in decision and policymaking processes.
- For Indigenous people, the right to self determination is the key; self determined political affiliation and self determined process of development.
- Lack of participation in decision making processes and recognition of collective rights exacerbates poverty inequalities.
- Recognizing the autonomy of indigenous peoples to self government is necessary.
- UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous people should be the framework for engagement with indigenous people.
- There needs to be funding, technical support and training to ensure indigenous peoples are well prepared to participate in different spaces.
- Without the right to land, territories and the resources within, then there is no good governances.

- **Aliya Celik, UCLG: Local Authorities Major Group:**

- Building governance from the bottom up, and providing transparent and accountable governance should be at the heart of the SDGs.
- Governance should be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. It should define shared responsibilities between local governments with other levels of governance.
- A new global governance architecture is needed to bring forward existing initiatives, for instance those proposed at Rio+20.
- There needs to be a call for ensuring the role of local, regional, and sub national governments in the SDGs.
- The post-2015 needs to have stronger support to effective decentralization.

- **Jeff Huffines: CIVICUS, NGO Major Group:**

- There is a need for a robust institutional framework to guide the post-2015 development process.
- Need to ensure that the international community is equipped with the right tools to tackle the agenda.
- Development, Sustainable Development, and Environment are often seen as separate policies, but there is a stark need to merge all of these together.

- Critical question will be whether the HLPF will be given financial and political weight to ensure it can make changes it is tasked to complete.
- In the HLPF, there needs to be an adoption of best practices within the UN system of engaging civil society. The HLPF reviewing, monitoring and evaluation processes should include consultation of Major Groups.
- Needs to be financial commitments made to support people from developing countries to participate in processes at the UNHQ.
- International financial institutions should act in line with Human Rights agenda.

Question and Answers Segment

- **Favio Palma: ATD Fourth World:** Could you provide any specific recommendations for governments to include discrimination into national policies?

Response: Jeff Huffines: Governments need to adopt policies on freedom of expression, association and assembly.

- **Diarmid O'Sullivan:** Governance should be hardwired into the SDGs framework, to establish legitimacy to the process. Financing for development is linked to government attempts to curb tax evasion.

- **Andrew Palmer: Development Initiatives:** How can we ensure that data collected is correct? The international community should commit on a target on increasing access to information. We need to remember that sustainable development is not just what you do but how you do it.

Response: Jeff Huffines: This issue at the heart of discussions about the SDGs. They need a qualitative and quantitative measurement system alongside the goals. There is a need to have this global data revolution, possibly through a global registry of data that is provided by governments that is user friendly.

Response: Alya Celik: How can we hold the UN and others accountable is the key to successful SDGs.

Response: Jeff Huffines: On the international level, we need to introduce other Modalities, and review mechanisms, to hold stakeholders and other governments accountable in a realistic way - so that it is not just a PR exercise. How do we include people from all parts of society - especially the poorest. It is a challenge to bring those to the table at the UN. Even the policy makers ignore the experiences of the poorest due to discrimination.

- **Jessie Henshaw: Commons Cluster:** How do we work with those who would like 'autonomy' over their own development.
- **Ketan Kothari: Sight Savers, NGO Major Group:** How are we going to make state bodies accountable and ensure that they provide financial assistance to sustainable development projects?
- **Michael Replogle: Institute for Transportation and Development Policy:** A key enabler of sustainable development is effective transportation - but this is missing in the discussions of

sustainable development. How can we increase sustainable transportation in this new development agenda.

Response: Aliya Celic: As we all know - over half of the world's population lives in urban areas. This figure will be increasing over time. Sustainable urbanisation is therefore another crucial area that we should be focussing on.

Response: Jeff Huffines: In January, we will be hosting a consultation on sustainable cities and urbanisation, which will be an important consultation.

- **Mary Gilbert: Quaker Earth Witness, NGO Major Group:** We noticed that poverty has been focused on people's incomes. We want to see different measures of wellbeing such as misery and data that is disaggregated.
- **Cecile Charles-King: Cubraifi Inc - Women, NGOs, Farmers:** Is there a mechanism that examines conflicts of interest in partnerships that exist and those that are being created?
- **Eva Richter: International Federation of Business and Professional Women**
Refugees are pushed out of their countries because of environmental degradation, economic and social reasons. How do we develop economic advancement with respect to refugees needs?
- **Remarks by Nikhil Seth:** Nothing that is developed in the SDGs should take away from the autonomy of indigenous people. There needs to be accountability in the review mechanisms of the SDGs.

16:05 – 17:20 Session 4

Designing SDGs that foster human development within planetary boundaries (including climate change and natural resources management)

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Louise Kantrow (Business and Industry Major Group) and Gisbert Glaser (Science and Technology Major Group)

Panellists:

- Dr. Ian Noble: Scientific & Technological Community Major Group
- Bernadette Fischler: CAFOD, NGO Major Group
- John Drexhage: Business & Industry Major Group
- Yassen Tcholakov: Children and Youth Major Group
- Nazipha Wright, Energia Botswana, Women's Major Group

Panel Discussion

- **Dr. Ian Noble: Scientific & Technological Community Major Group**
 - What if there are not enough resources for everyone to achieve their rights?
This is a question that has been challenging many scientists in this area, and it is a time bomb.
 - The stable functioning of Earth systems is a prerequisite for a thriving global society.
 - There is a new definition of Sustainable Development in the Anthropocene; it is development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding the Earth's life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends.
 - Thriving lives and livelihoods, sustainable food security, secure sustainable water, universal clean energy, healthy and productive ecosystems, and governance for sustainable societies are all essential components of a sustainable world.
 - Science can identify solutions, but these solutions must be agreed and shared by all, especially future generations.
- **Bernadette Fischler: CAFOD, NGO Major Group**
 - Environmental disasters are only second to armed conflict in hindering progress in development.
 - Climate change needs to be combated as an underlying process in combating poverty.
 - Why did the MDGs fail? MDG 7 didn't work, as it was a silo of all environmental issues. Targets and indicators were not brilliant - as targeted indicators were not clear.
 - Climate change needs to be embedded across the whole framework.
 - SDGs are now approaching poverty as a multidimensional issue, and so this is a plausible route.
 - Targets need to be underpinned by fairness and equity, but also flexible to incorporate new scientific ideas.
 - Mitigation needs to be addressed to build a low carbon path.
 - Climate change needs to be put high up in the political agenda, possibly headlining a particular goal.
- **John Drexhage: Business & Industry Major Group**
 - A solutions approach is particularly constructive to these discussions.
 - Smart climate goals are good.

- Tackling poverty and building resilience is key in combating climate change.
 - Vulnerability is not merely a geophysical issue.
 - Resilience is promoting governance that supports progress in this area, with minimal corruption and bureaucracy.
 - We need the poor countries to go from copying new innovations to creating innovations for themselves and others.
 - We must not delay essential actions that are needed to support those most in need.
- **Yassen Tcholakov: Children and Youth Major Group**
 - Yassen quoted another person by saying, “We don't inherit the earth from our parents we borrow it from our children”.
 - Intergenerational equity manifests itself in the whole concept of sustainable development.
 - Unsustainable consumption will cause us to breach our planetary boundaries, leading to decreasing quality of life for future generations.
 - SDGs need to recognize new economic paradigm that recognizes more ways of wellbeing than economic growth.
 - Impartially balancing the short term to long term needs is politically very difficult, and too often the needs of the future are subverted to the needs of the present.
 - We offer the following recommendations:
 - Creation of a global ombudsperson to ensure accountability to future generations;
 - New goals including metrics of intergenerational equity;
 - Development metrics that go beyond GDP and growth alone;
 - The framing of sustainable consumption and production as a human rights issue;
 - A formal dialogue on intergenerational solidarity;
 - Education on Sustainable Consumption and production.
 - Reporting of where we are in relation to all planetary limits.
- **Nazipha Wright, Energia Batswana, Women’s major Group**
 - Women are disproportionately affected by issues of climate change. Why do you hear this statement? Women are the majority of the poor, and they are the most severely impacted by the environmental impacts of climate change.
 - There is an urgent call for a shift in economic power, opportunities and empowerment in favour of women.
 - These are the solutions that we offer:
 - Ensure legally binding solutions.
 - Manage common natural resources in a sustainable way - not at mercy to the markets.
 - There needs to be a recognition and respect for the unique knowledge of women, indigenous peoples and local communities
 - Women's land use rights should be assured.
 - Land and resource grabbing should be prevented, to ensure that there is sustainable use of scarce resources.
 - Public budgets need to be transparent in the design, development and delivery of their agendas.

Question and Answers Segment

- **Lininka Ulatowska: Institute of Planetary Synthesis:** Debt based economy is threatening our survival. We need to have increased taxing the use of resources and change into a common-based economy.

Response: Yassen Tcholakov: A global commons model can divert our sole attention on GDP as an indicator of development.

- **Daniella Lapidus: Coalition for Sustainable Development, Columbia University:** How can we incorporate use of renewable energy into our national energy plans and eliminate fossil fuel subsidies?

Response: Bernadette Fischler: The proposal of a climate smart energy goal should insist sustainable energy becomes integral in national energy plans.

- **Galina Angarova: Tebtebba Foundation, Indigenous People Major Group:** There needs to be free prior and informed consent for the use of resources within communities. Melting sea ice leads to land reduction - how do we ensure that indigenous peoples are not left behind?

Response: John Drexhage: Need to address issues with indigenous peoples. If not, then this is incredibly bad for businesses - especially with mining issues.

Response: Nazipha Wright: Are we involving indigenous people enough? They have been able to survive alongside the environment in the past.

- **Rob Wheeler: Global Ecovillage Network + Commons Action for the UN, NGO Major Group:** The UN ought to adopt an SDG that recognizes the Earth System as a whole as a Natural Heritage of Humanity?

Response: Dr. Ian Nobel: Even though the scientific community focuses on planetary boundaries it is important that the boundaries are liable to change.

- **Leida Rijnhout ANPED, NGO Major Group:** SDG need not only to be human centered, but also environment centered: Without environmental capital, there is no basis for life on this planet. Need for going beyond the eco-efficiency-strategies, but also stress sufficiency. Implement quota mechanisms and other strategies of capping in absolute amounts of resource use.

- **Iliana Salazar-Dodge: Columbia University:** Why has the discussion on poverty been left to the end of the discussion when it is so core to all other development issues?

- **Philip Vergragt: Tellus Institute:** There is a need to radically rethink the relationship between economic development and environmental sustainability.

Closing Remarks

- **Yassen Tcholakov:** The future generations will not be able to pollute as much as we currently can afford to do.
- **John Drexhage:** There is an opportunity for developing economies grow their economies in ways that are more sustainable.

- **Nazipha Wright:** We do not want to be the generations who make the world an uninhabitable place for humans.
- **Bernadette Fischler:** There is also the point on energy efficiency that needs to be taken into account. Please go to the Sustainable Development knowledge sharing platform and look at the papers there.
- **Dr. Ian Noble:** Part of the change is going to require much more effective monitoring and sharing of data. A change in attitudes is a crucial prerequisite for effective change.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- To access the background papers produced for each of the sessions of this first intersessional, follow this link:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=681&type=12&menu=1544>
- For the presentation made to the OWG reporting back from the intersessional visit:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2668ReportBacktoOWG5final.pdf>
- For information about the work of the Open Working Group and stakeholder engagement activities:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1661>
- For information of the different Post-2015 processes visit:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1661>
- Video interviews of this event can be watched:
 - Carmen J. Gimenez on the design of the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/oHBvBhO5i6o>
 - Celine Paramunda on social justice and equity and the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/BBvZsW5UjMM>
 - Dr Amalle Daou on maternal mortality as an indicator for inequality
http://youtu.be/OTDbW3nq_gA
 - Jan van de Venis on Human Rights as the backbone for the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/i9pM6kdGmHg>
 - Jeffery Huffines on the High-Level Political Forum and the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/4tzBg3EEEnXE>
 - Jessie Henshaw on environmental awareness for Sustainable Development Goals measurement
http://youtu.be/xbxu_9R1h0U
 - Mary Gilbert on the alternative measurement indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/U-O33dAanel>
 - Norine Kennedy on the need for a human rights-based approach for the Sustainable Development Goals
<http://youtu.be/Ur20SiE7RAA>
 - Ambassador Jean-Francis R. Zinsou (Benin) at the 5th OWG session on poverty eradication & the SDGs
<http://youtu.be/cg9cXjv1doo>

-Áine O'Connor on poverty eradication and sustainable development

<http://youtu.be/t0dH5IR6jt8>

-Pincos Chavez at the 5th OWG session on sustainable energy and the SDGs

<http://youtu.be/naISqTd49xU>

-Rob Wheeler on development within planetary boundaries

<http://youtu.be/jKY5xQvsO1E>

-Philip J. Vergragt at the 5th OWG session on sustainable consumption and the role of the consumer <http://youtu.be/7n60F-Qoh8Q>

-Alanna Hartzok on inequality and financing sustainable development

<http://youtu.be/-EYQP-tLVms>

ANNEX 1. Letter from the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to Major Groups and other Stakeholders

One Day Inter-sessional meeting between Major Groups and other Stakeholders and the Open Working Group on SDGs (22 November 2013)

1. The Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs, Ambassador Csaba Körösi and Ambassador Macharia Kamau, welcome the efforts being made by the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to prepare for the one day Inter-sessional meeting on 22 November 2013. The meeting, initiated by the Co-Chairs, will provide another opportunity for Major Groups and other Stakeholders to present their views on the process and the substantive content of the work of the OWG on SDGs.
2. The Co-Chairs will be happy to be present at the meeting to listen to the views and will write to all Member States to request their presence on 22 November. They will be pleased to circulate the outcome of the proceedings of the meeting at the Fifth session of the OWG (25-27 November). They will also draw attention of the Member States and other participants to the major findings from the 22 November meeting.
3. On substantive issues, the Co-Chairs would encourage the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to continue to be bold and innovative. They should design the substantive focus to help Member States reach an ambitious and transformative agenda. An agenda which not only helps accelerate the unfinished business of the MDGs but also achieves irreversible poverty eradication in the context of sustainable development.
4. The Co-Chairs would like to draw attention to the interim report of the OWG (A/67/941) and the other issues notes and documents which have been issued in connection with the OWG on SDGs.
5. They would, in particular, like to highlight the issues already covered (para 11) and those that will be covered (para 105). They would like to underscore paras 20, 23, 25, 26, 30 and 32 of the interim report which, inter alia, refer to:
 - the need to advance sustainable development in a holistic manner and incorporate in a balanced manner all three dimensions of sustainable development
 - the need to arrive at a common agreement on a few aspirational goals
 - the need to focus on key drivers of sustainable development which may be difficult to enumerate as goals
 - means of implementation
 - multi-stakeholders' participation.
6. Thus there are a large number of conceptual and other issues around which the 22 November meeting can be organised. The Co-Chairs would like to express their support for the organisational work and reiterate their hope that the meeting of the Major Groups will be a clarion call to all participants of the OWG to leave aside all timidity and help formulate a post-2015 development agenda which is bold, practical, ambitious and transformative.

ANNEX 2. AGENDA OF FIRST INTERSESSIONAL BETWEEN MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS

22 November, 2013 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
UN HQ, New York, NY, Conference Building Room 3
(working language English, translation only available upon availability)

AGENDA

MORNING (9:00-13:00)

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Session: Welcome and explanation of the day,

Co-Chairs: Ambassador Korosi, OWG Co-Chairs and Sascha Gabizon and Jeff Huffines

10:15 – 11:30 First Session: Rights-based SDGs that encompasses all dimensions of Sustainable Development, Co-Chairs Ambassador Korosi and Sameer Dosani (Actionaid)

10:15 to 10:40 Speakers

- Jan van de Venis: Human Rights Law
- Ignacio Saiz: Economic and Social Rights (TBC)
- Norma Maldonado: Farmers Major Groups (TBC)
- Norine Kennedy: Business & Industry Major Groups

Questions

- How practically can human rights norms inform the content of SDGs, targets and indicators?
- How can the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities as recognized in Rio+20 be made more operational by relating it to existing human rights norms? How can human rights norms serve as a common yardstick to evaluate policy coherence for sustainable development, especially as related to **corporate accountability, environment, trade, aid, tax, migration, intellectual property, debt, monetary, and financial regulation**?
- Though many countries have ratified the conventions related to international human rights, there are few effective enforcement mechanisms. What kinds of penalties can the international community impose on those who are not living up to their human rights obligations? How can (economically and politically) weaker countries ensure that stronger countries also comply with international human rights law and international human rights standards?
- Research evidence shows positive links between accountable governments, equality and non-discrimination, inclusive growth and sustainable development - why would this be the case?
- What would be the positive multiplier effects of a human rights-based approach to development?
- Why would data on overall educational attainment and investment in schools not tell us whether the right to freedom from discrimination is being upheld?

- What would be the positive multiplier/ripple effects of a Rights Based Approach to development?
- Why would data on overall educational attainment and investment in schools not tell us whether the right to freedom from discrimination is being upheld?
- How to ensure Member States do not ignore a Rights Based approach?

10:40- 11:30 Questions and Answers

11:30- 11:45 BREAK

11:45-13:00 Second Session: How the Sustainable Development Goals can eliminate inequalities and poverty, Co-chair Ambassador Korosi and Matt Simonds and Debra Jones

11:45 – 12:10 Speakers

- Rosy Pereyra: Aging Peoples
- Golan Kibrea: Children and Youth Major Groups
- Kwabena Otoo: Workers and Trade Union Major Groups
- Sean Reggee: LGBT Rights

Questions

- Should there be stand alone goal on eliminating income inequalities?
- Should targets include affirmative action and quota for women, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities?
- Should targets include all countries to improve their GINI co-efficient?
- Should goals include the elimination of the gender pay gap?
- Is reducing extreme wealth important to eliminating inequalities?

12:10- 13:00 Questions and Answers

AFTERNOON (14:00- 18:00)

14:00 – 14:15 *Special Briefing by the Office of the President of the General Assembly on the General Assembly events under the theme: Setting the Stage for the Post 2015 Development Agenda, Jorge Laguna Celis*

14:15 – 14:30 Q&A session: Co-Chairs Galina Angarova

14:30 – 15:45 Third Session: Good governance, enabling environment and institutions at the core of implementing SDGs, Ambassador Kamau and Debra Jones and Erica Dhar

14:30 – 15:10 Speakers

- Myrna Cunningham: Indigenous Peoples Major Groups
- Aliya Celik, UCLG: Local Authorities Major Group
- Catherine Pearson: World Future Council, NGO Major Groups

- Jeff Huffines: CIVICUS, NGO Major Groups
- Nozipho Wright: Energia Botswana, Women Major Groups

Questions

- What role do open and accountable institutions play in eradicating extreme poverty and promote sustainable development?
- What innovations in measurement and statistics might enable cross country measurement of issues such as open and accountable governance and human rights?
- What models of economic governance addresses systemic and structural change?
- In the development of public-private partnerships, how can safeguards within the multilateral system be strengthened to ensure that public finance (ODA) often used to cover the risks of private investment will promote public interests?
- How will the Open Working Group on SDGs ensure an “open, transparent and inclusive” process that includes all relevant stakeholders during the report writing phase of its work?
- How can the SDGs guide the work and scope of the HLPF in cooperation with the GA and ECOSOC, and in coordination with UN entities and other international bodies?
- How can the HLPF effectively integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development by ensuring policy coherence and institutional coordination between international institutions and national sustainable development strategies?
- How can the HLPF help bridge the governance gaps between the UN, Bretton Woods, WTO and other economic institutions and ensure accountability of these institutions to human rights?
- In addition to governments, how can the HLPF help ensure ownership of the SDGs by all other stakeholder groups?
- What types of additional resources for secretarial and stakeholder support will be needed for the HLPF given its very broad mandate to coordinate the review and implementation of sustainable development across the UN system?
- How can global governance help achieve ambitious universal goals while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities?
- How can the SDGs contribute to a more balanced and synergetic approach among all levels of government and development partners?

15:10- 15:50 Questions and Answers

15:50- 16:05 Break

16:05 – 17:20 Fourth Session: Designing SDGs that foster human development within planetary boundaries (including climate change and natural resources management), Co-Chairs Ambassador Makau and Louise Kantrow and Gisbert Glaser

16:05 – 16:30 Speakers

- Dr. Ian Noble: Scientific & Technological Community Major Groups
- Bernadette Fischler: Climate Change, NGO Major Groups
- John Drexhage: Business & Industry Major Groups
- WADS Wijetunge: Children and Youth Major Groups

Questions

- How can the SDGs be designed in order to focus on the effect of human development within planetary boundaries addressing the needs of the most vulnerable?
- How can the SDGs concerning human development be designed in order to take advantage of the richness of experience of those who are affected, as they also have unique understanding of potential solutions?
- How to address climate change in the SDGs without going into parallel negotiations with UNFCCC?
- How to create legally binding mechanisms to protect and clean up the global commons; oceans etc.?
- How to create incentives to implement the existing MEAs as part of SDGs?
- How to address loss and damage and historic liability?
- How to give a voice to future generations?
- How to incorporate emerging challenges with impact on planetary boundaries and strong potential for fostering interlinkages such as sustainable urbanisation and sustainable consumption & production?

16:30 – 17:20 Questions and Answers

17:20 - 18:00 Closing Plenary

Key note address – short messages from the sessions by various Co-Chairs

Questions and Answers