

General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

Sixth Session
9-13 December 2013, UNHQ

Summary of the Co-Chairs

The sixth session of the General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 13 December 2013. The session covered four areas of focus: 1) means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); 2) global partnership for achieving sustainable development; 3) needs of countries in special situations, African countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing States (SIDS), as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries; and 4) human rights, the right to development, and global governance.

Opening session

The Co-Chairs of the OWG, H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya and H.E. Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, jointly opened the session on Monday morning and briefly introduced the four topics to be covered in five days. H.E. Ambassador Kamau stated that means of implementation, as covered in section VI of the Rio outcome document, included finance, technology, capacity building and trade, and that the OWG was specifically mandated to look into science and technology, knowledge sharing and capacity building. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, on the other hand, has been mandated by the Rio+20 outcome to be responsible primarily for identifying the financial means of implementation.

Ambassador Kőrösi welcomed the presence of H.E. Ambassador Majanen, one of the two Co-Chairs of the Committee of Experts, who reported on the Committee's progress. The work of the Committee would be closely coordinated with the OWG's work, and the outputs would be incorporated into a Secretary-General's synthesis report in late 2014, which would form the basis of the post-2015 development agenda.

On the topic of partnerships, H.E. Ambassador Kőrösi emphasized the need to learn from the MDGs, include all possibilities, mobilize actions, and increase potential resources to ensure that the SDGs could be realistic and ambitious. H.E. Ambassador Kamau further stressed the universality of SDGs and the importance of speaking to all countries, which could lead to a fundamentally different expectation of how countries come together in the new global partnership.

1. Means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); Global partnership for achieving sustainable development

During the first two-day segment, members of the OWG listened to and interacted with three keynote speakers on Monday morning, two panelists on Monday afternoon and two panelists on

Tuesday afternoon, covering a wide range of topics under means of implementation, including science, technology and innovation, technology transfer and capacity building. These interactive sessions also addressed the topic of a global partnership for achieving sustainable development. H.E. Ambassador Majanen, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, was also invited to speak on Monday afternoon, to inform the OWG on the committee's progress in developing a financing strategy.

On Monday morning, **Mr. Erik Solheim, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)**, commended the UN for convening the development and environmental communities to work on SDGs, and stressed the need to maintain and increase ODA to achieve the UN goal of 0.7 percent of GNI. He also noted that the ODA system needed reform, due to the changing landscape with the rise of emerging donors and the abundance of financial flows from different sources that could be directed for development purposes. In this light, he particularly underscored the importance of using ODA in a catalytic manner, leveraging other financing flows and contributing to improved domestic resource mobilization.

To address the challenges associated with accounting for ODA, Mr. Solheim said the OECD was contemplating a reform of its definition. Changes could include a partial narrowing in some areas, such as in relation to spending on refugees or students, and a widening in other areas, for instance in integrating contributions to peacekeeping forces, loans and guarantees. The current concept and reporting system also does not adequately capture the contributions of South-South donors, and has failed to measure the impacts of ODA on recipients. The OECD DAC would work with all stakeholders, in particular the UN, in its efforts to reform the ODA concept.

Mr. Solheim stressed that ODA still counted for over 50 percent of external financing for LDCs, and that SIDS, LLDCs and African countries relied much more on ODA than other developing countries. He expressed concern over the recent fall in ODA and suggested that the SDGs send a strong message to the international community to call for doubling of ODA flows to LDCs, from the current level of 0.1 percent of GNI to 0.2 per cent of GNI. Finally, he cited the *First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*, to be hosted by Mexico in April 2014, as an opportunity to mobilize the much-needed political will.

Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director General, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), discussed the critical importance of integrating science into decision making, in particular in relation to sustainable development, as scientific knowledge has strong implications for the welfare of citizens. He observed that basic science, research and development—as well as education—are all closely linked and constitute a “virtuous circle.” In relation to basic science, he emphasized that, due to its long cycles, it was often not appealing to private investors, and that governments should consider it part of the basic infrastructure for long-term sustainable development. Efforts are also required to collaborate at all levels to ensure availability of qualified personnel to carry out Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) research; build adequate infrastructure; and ensure good governance of scientific knowledge based on open access, which is key to exchanging information between developed and developing countries.

To reflect these policy priorities in the SDGs, Professor Heuer specifically suggested that, regardless of how science is integrated, SDGs should include an indicator on the percentage of GDP spent on STEM research and education, as well as targets—within the global goal—for each nation’s investment in STEM education and basic science, guaranteed from the public purse.

Mr. Martin Khor, Executive Director, South Centre, pointed out that means of implementation (MoI) and global partnership for sustainable development were closely linked. The success of partnerships would require finance, technology and supportive international regimes, including trade. He called for developed countries to be aware of the impacts of their domestic policies on developing countries. He recommended to the OWG that means of implementation be included under each goal, and also be featured as a stand-alone chapter. Similarly, global partnership for sustainable development should be reflected under each goal and as a separate goal, in the MDG8 fashion.

With regard to technology, Mr. Khor reaffirmed its critical role while emphasizing the need to take into account full technology cycle in technology transfer, i.e. research and development, demonstration, production at large scale and diffusion. He argued that developing countries should “climb the technology ladder” and build local capacity to design and innovate, which would typically go through three stages: initiation, internalization and generation. Mr. Khor argued that whether intellectual property rights (IPR) constitute a barrier to technology transfer was a controversial issue. He divided technologies into three categories: 1) those in the public domain; 2) patented technologies; and 3) technologies of the future. He stated that public funding should be made available through a technology fund for technologies of the future and that the results of publicly funded research should be made available in the public domain. With regard to patented technologies, international measures could be taken to ensure fair and equitable access. For example, a global technology pool for combating climate change could be established for developing countries. In this regard, he welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and its proposal for a global technology facilitation mechanism. He supported the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to advance intergovernmental dialogue on details of such a technology facilitation mechanism. In particular, he stressed the importance of full technology assessment before transfer and called for the formulation of criteria for environmentally sound and affordable technologies, also taking into account the social aspects. He ended his presentation with strong support to the five recommendations in the UN MDG8 Gap Report.

On Monday afternoon, **H.E. Ambassador Majanen of Finland, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing**, addressed the OWG. He highlighted the close collaboration between the Co-Chairs of the two intergovernmental processes, including through a joint meeting planned for March 2014 to ensure that the two processes work closely together and that their reports are synchronized. He recalled the mandate of the Committee to provide options for a sustainable development financing strategy which would be comprehensive and integrated, and which would facilitate finishing the unfinished business of the MDGs as well as extending its reach to cover the sustainable development goals.

Ambassador Majanen then briefed the OWG on the progress made so far in the Committee. The first two sessions had been very productive, setting up three thematic clusters, which also conducted inter-sessional work. Cluster 1 dealt with the assessment of financing needs, mapping of financing flows and the impact of the domestic and international environment; Cluster 2 would focus on the mobilization of resources and their effective use; and Cluster 3 would examine institutional arrangements.

Preliminary conclusions included that there was no lack of funding overall, but that financing was not currently allocated sufficiently toward sustainable development needs. All financial flows – domestic and international, private and public – would be needed. The persistence of extreme poverty called for a focus of ODA on poverty eradication, while the environmental crisis posed an equally urgent threat. Lastly, the shared responsibility for global development and shared global interests emerged as a major theme.

Prof. Keith Maskus, University of Boulder, Colorado, reemphasized the critical role of science, technology and innovation for development. In his view, intellectual property rights have played a major role in technology transfer and dissemination. Patent rights for instance have shifted incentives toward formalization of intellectual property. However, their impact was limited for smaller and poor economies, where the overall economic climate, openness to technology via trade and foreign direct investment and skilled labor migration, among other factors, were equally if not more important. The emergence of global innovation and research networks also presents promising avenues; however, at present developing countries remain insufficiently connected to them.

In terms of policy conclusions, he called for the maximization of public access to patent information, differentiated patent terms and buy-outs, increased public funding for local use and adaptation of technologies, the licensing of key technologies on concessional terms, a WIPO agreement on permissible use of copyrighted materials, long-term access for skilled labor, and public access for publicly funded research. The facilitation mechanism that was currently being considered was already anticipating many of these arguments. The main enabling condition would be improved governance in countries, as well as national investments in science, technology and innovation infrastructure.

Prof. Ambuj Sagar, Institute of Technology in New Delhi, India, noted that, for science, technology and innovation to be successfully leveraged for sustainable development, the availability, scaling and rapid deployment and dissemination of technologies was key. Currently, the countries with the greatest need for leveraging innovation had the least capability to do so. In addition, much of science, technology and innovation was driven by market forces, and therefore did not sufficiently address sustainable development challenges.

To address these shortcomings, Professor Sagar stressed that global technological capabilities would need to be leveraged, through international research and development facilities, networks such as CGIAR, product development partnerships, institutional partnerships, or innovation prizes. Developing countries would further need to strengthen local institutional capacity, in order to adapt solutions to the local context, and would need to develop system-level analysis

and integration expertise, in order to carry out technology assessment and prioritization, monitoring and learning, as well as experience sharing.

On Tuesday afternoon, **Mr. Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever**, stressed the importance of vision and ambition in formulating a new single set of integrated sustainable development goals that could balance the three dimensions, be sufficiently measurable and time-bound, and include clear accountabilities. These goals will need to start with the unfinished business of the MDGs. Their attainment will require collaboration and action.

On *collaboration*, he stressed the urgent need for transformative changes and called for involvement of all stakeholders, particularly women and young people. He argued that there were two related partnership concepts: a global partnership for sustainable development to be renewed with solidarity and mutual respect, building on a compact of commitments; and multi-stakeholder partnerships, where multiple stakeholders—including the private sector—with unique complementary strengths would team together to tackle certain issues. He said that each SDG should be accompanied by a partnership mechanism, a coalition of stakeholders, building on lessons learned from initiatives such as Every Women Every Child.

On *action*, Mr. Polman explained that for business sustainable development was not charity but a necessity to address the costs of inaction, which could put trillions of dollars of assets at risk. He called for making the SDGs framework actionable by businesses, setting clear goals and targets with a functioning mechanism to monitor progress. He invoked the concept of co-responsibility of business, together with governments, for delivering sustainable development. He argued that there were three key actions crucial for an effective business contribution: 1) creating an enabling environment, with governments putting in place a robust regulatory framework ; 2) businesses working with their supply chains to bring about change at the grassroots; and 3) placing sustainability at the heart of business operations and improving transparency to build trust, including through extending the concept and practice of corporate reporting to encompass the triple bottom line.

Ms. Gargee Ghosh, Director of Development Policy and Finance, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, argued that MDGs were actionable and successful, and that partnerships emerged as lynchpins of MDG delivery. New private and public donors have emerged and partnerships have become a useful mechanism to align visions, expertise, resources and skills of the private sector for development purposes, which had greatly complemented official development assistance. Key question is how to make the SDGs as actionable as the MDGs?

Ms. Ghosh called for poverty and hunger to be placed at the center of the new development agenda, remaining focused on finishing the unfinished business of MDGs to start. She believed that ambitious yet achievable targets with deadlines and clearly defined measurable actions would be incredibly helpful for the success of SDGs. She also called for better target-setting, emphasizing the need to allow customizing targets at national and regional levels, taking into account the different starting points of countries, particularly those in vulnerable groups. She suggested that the focus should remain on the biggest disparities, notably: child mortality, infectious disease, agricultural productivity.

Interactive exchange of views

During the course of the two days, many regional and political groups delivered their statements on the topic of means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. Many delegations also followed the advice of the Co-Chairs to engage in a more interactive discussion. The discussion revolved around the following views:

- There was broad agreement on the pivotal importance of science, technology and innovation in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. Many noted the persistence of the technology divide between countries and regions, and highlighted the importance of the transfer of and access to environmentally sound and affordable technologies for developing countries, as well as the importance of building the local knowledge base and scientific and technological capabilities. Some members also noted that it was important to strike the right balance between protecting intellectual property rights and the rights of users of technology. GAVI, operating in the health sector, and CGIAR in agriculture were seen as successful examples of partnerships that facilitated access to technology.
- Many delegations further stressed the urgent need for a technology facilitation mechanism, as referenced in the Rio outcome document. They welcomed the Secretary-General's report in this regard as well as its recommendation to form an intergovernmental working group on the establishment of this mechanism. They further noted that such a mechanism would need to coordinate and support the implementation of existing agreements, facilitate sharing of experiences, address gaps in the technology cycle, and support partnerships that engage all interested governments, Major Groups and other stakeholders. Members also recalled the Istanbul Programme of Action and its call to establish a Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and welcomed the GA decision to support a feasibility study for the Bank.
- Several delegations referred to the potential contribution of migration to sustainable development, including through knowledge sharing and skills transfer. Many stated that migration and human mobility should be integrated into the SDG framework.
- Many delegations underlined that science, technology and innovation are drivers of social and economic development, and could be “game changers” for developing countries. It was emphasized by many delegations that this required a supportive international environment, including a fair rule-based international trade system. In this regard, many welcomed the agreement reached at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in December, and emphasized that a successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations remained critical for global development prospects.
- Some delegations supported a stand-alone sustainable development goal on science, technology and innovation, while others cautioned that a separate stand-alone goal might lead to an insufficient consideration of science, technology and innovation in some of the thematic goals.
- Some believed that each SDG should be linked with concrete means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity building, and that these means of implementation should have clear and measurable targets. Others cautioned that SDGs should not be too prescriptive, and called for sufficient flexibility to ensure that lessons learned could be taken on board.

- Many delegations strongly emphasized that a post-2015 development agenda would need to be accompanied by a renewed global partnership for sustainable development, built on existing commitments and lessons learned, and based on strong collective action and clear commitments by Member States. They said that this would require a paradigm shift from the donor-recipient framework of the MDGs. Some speakers therefore suggested that all parties should take ownership of the universal agenda, based on shared responsibility. Others highlighted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the need to take into account the needs of countries in special situations, such as, among others, LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and African countries.
- With regard to financing, many acknowledged that ODA would remain critical, particularly for countries lacking sufficient access to other sources of financing, such as LDCs. Many expressed concern over the recent fall in ODA and called for prompt action to reverse the decline and meet existing commitments. Others noted that ODA would need to be used more consciously both to facilitate the mobilization of domestic resources and to catalyze private financing flows such as foreign direct investments.
- Other external financing sources, such as South-South and triangular cooperation, remittances, philanthropy and innovative development finance were also seen to increase in importance, but some Members noted that they were a complement to rather than a substitute for traditional ODA. Several delegations highlighted the importance of curbing illicit financial flows to bolstering domestic resource mobilization.
- Many speakers emphasized the critical role of the private sector as an engine for sustainable development, while some speakers struck a cautious note, as the private sector focus is on short-term profit more than long-term sustainability. Public policy can change the incentives facing business.
- The Global Partnership needs to have a strong accountability mechanism, or mechanisms, for all stakeholders. Measuring of results, transparency, good governance and democratic decision-making at all levels should underpin the global partnership. In order to improve governance, transparency and accountability, many noted that data collection, monitoring and statistical capacity need to be strengthened, thus reiterated calls by the Secretary-General's high-level panel for a data revolution.
- There is considerable potential to expand multi-stakeholder partnerships, including in support of specific goals. Governments play a key role in building an enabling environment for such partnerships.

II. Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries

On Wednesday and Thursday, the OWG turned to the topic of the needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Co-Chair Kamau introduced the topic, stressing the importance of the SDGs to the countries in special situations. Two keynote speakers led discussions on Wednesday morning, following by presentations from one panel speaker in the afternoon and two additional panel speakers on Thursday morning.

Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, began the session on countries in special situations by raising five key points. He started by first

highlighting how the concept of sustainable development has a different meaning to different countries in special situations. Mr. Lopes asked how SDGs will address the different concerns of countries in special situations—such as climate change, economic structural transformation and pervasive poverty—and underscored the need to identify commonalities and allow differentiation in terms of targets and priorities.

Second, Mr. Lopes discussed the relationship between sustainable development and the need for a new social contract. In order to address sustainability at a global level, he emphasized the need to understand demographic, climate and environmental trends. Thirdly, Mr. Lopes raised the issue of vulnerability, noting how underlying concepts of sustainable development are often forgotten when new challenges arise in times of crisis. He called for a re-balancing of the hierarchical “cappuccino approach” to sustainable development, which places economics as top priority followed by social and finally environmental matters. Fourthly, Mr. Lopes underscored the need to refresh the understanding of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), including how the application of CBDR reaches beyond climate negotiations, and stressed that unless countries update their views on this concept, there would be difficulties in agreeing on a common set of goals. He pointed to how African countries were looking at the opportunities provided by abundant renewable energy resources to contribute to tackling climate change while providing sustainable energy for all. Finally, Mr. Lopes talked about the challenge of data in measuring sustainable development, the need for local targets and statistics and the need for a data revolution.

Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, World Bank Group’s Special Envoy on MDGs, discussed the many diverse needs and situations of the different categories of developing countries, noting that the World Bank now has policies and strategies for each group. He cautioned against neglecting to prioritize the countries “who have been left behind” when developing the post-2015 agenda, while also acknowledging the significant progress made to date. Middle income countries are making important strides, but at the same time there seems to be a “middle income trap”: of the 101 middle income countries in the 1960s, only 13 had become high-income countries by 2008. In terms of finance, he called for better and smarter aid, domestic resource mobilization, private finance for development and innovative sources of finance—including global public goods. There has been a decline in ODA from traditional donors as a group within the last two years. At the same time, the BRICs and other emerging countries have expanded South-South cooperation.

Dr. Patrick Guillaumont, President, Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI), presented data showing that the reduction of extreme poverty in LDCs was less than 20 per cent, while other developing countries have seen a reduction closer to 50 per cent. Reducing poverty by half is particularly difficult when starting with a very high incidence of poverty. He argued that, if we agree on universality of goals – promoting equity and justice among citizens of the world – then we must recognize differing development opportunities across countries. Some face structural economic vulnerabilities, which must be recognized as distinct from state fragility. The GA resolution of December 2012 on the follow-up of the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs and the gradual transition of countries invites development partners to consider LDC indicators, GNI per capita, the human assets index

and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating ODA. The application of such an approach by the multilateral development banks would represent significant progress in ODA allocation.

Mr. Selwin Hart, Climate Finance Advisor, Caribbean Development Bank, highlighted the special situation of SIDS, with a particular focus on the Caribbean. He recalled that the small size of these countries translates into a narrow and limited natural resource base, small domestic markets, small populations and work forces, lack of diversification, and a small private sector. The SIDS face particular problems in that they are reliant on imports, but they are often too small to attract exporters. This leads, in particular, to high energy costs. The Caribbean SIDS are particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in the markets of their larger neighbors, and they have not yet emerged from the economic and financial crises of recent years. On the positive side, he stated that good governance and political stability have been positive for the Caribbean SIDS region, and that regional institutions like CARICOM and the Caribbean Development Bank have contributed to strong regional cooperation.

Mr. Hart also highlighted the fact that most Caribbean SIDS are among the most indebted middle income countries. Due in part to this issue and to the small size of Caribbean states, access to finance is difficult for SIDS. The SIDS are also particularly vulnerable to economic effects from natural disasters, increasing the risks inherent in financing. Of the 10 countries with the highest average economic losses due to extreme weather events, eight were in the Caribbean.

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, focused his presentation on the varying conditions in each of the countries in special situations. He pointed to the overlap among categories of countries. Some are environmentally vulnerable, are in conflict and post-conflict situations, or are fragile states. A number of African countries, for example, are both LDCs and landlocked. Many SIDS are middle-income countries, though a few are LDCs. Many countries meet multiple criteria, though few face the same set of special circumstances. Dr. Bhattacharya said there must be a hierarchy of countries with special needs to determine where to emphasize their development. Looking at the diverse needs, he said we must distinguish between the concept of an international agenda and the specific needs of each country. He highlighted structural transformation, creation of stable employment opportunities and economic growth as challenges that cut across all these countries. Additionally, he pointed to the difficulty of balancing the new sustainable development agenda with the existing development agenda, which focuses more on health and human development. Finally, he asked whether the LDCs and other countries in special situations should have a goal in their own right or whether they should be addressed specifically in each point of the post-2015 development agenda.

Interactive exchange of views

There was a general consensus that the needs of countries in special situations – African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS – as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries will need to be taken on board in the post-2015 development agenda. Taking the capacities and needs of countries into account when setting the goals will allow for the development of an agenda that fits countries' needs. How we address the most vulnerable countries will be the mark of success or failure of the process. Many in the OWG also highlighted the following:

- Extreme poverty eradication should be the overarching goal of the SDGs. We need to have inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication, which should be accelerated by building productive capacity and infrastructure. The societies with highest inequality will face difficulties in addressing poverty. The countries in special situations—and in particular the LDCs—have failed to meet the MDGs, due in part to a lack of national capacity. The priorities of the countries that are most off-track must be at the front and centre of the SDGs. Differential and preferential treatment is needed to ensure that the SDGs are relevant to all countries.
- In the case of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS where global programmes of action (POAs) are already in place, these POAs provide a blueprint for their priorities in the post-2015 development agenda. Each of these programmes of action highlights the special needs and vulnerabilities of the corresponding countries.
- While innovative financing is important, ODA remains an essential tool for developing countries, especially for LDCs. Nonetheless, other sources of finance need to be tapped. Regional development banks are an important source of finance, as are innovative financing and private sector financing. Current ODA flows still fall short of Monterrey targets. Rationalization of the distribution of ODA in terms of sectors and countries are vitally important. Vulnerability and social development should be factors in ODA disbursement. Per capita GDP alone is not a good enough metric of development. The importance of South-South and triangular cooperation to complement North-South cooperation was often underscored.
- There is a need to strengthen the data and statistical capacities of these groups of countries, as their needs are often imperfectly known due to gaps in data collection. Data quality and availability will also be important for successful follow-up and monitoring.
- Technology transfer, capacity building, infrastructure development, education, were recognised as important means to direct countries in special situations toward sustainable development. There is a need for a strong global governance framework with a binding accountability mechanism. Mutual accountability, democratic ownership and inclusive partnership are vitally important.

III. Human rights, including the right to development, and global governance

Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary General for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed the OWG on behalf of Dr. Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and emphasized human rights principles as a normative framework for all nations and all countries, for governments towards their citizens, to secure freedom from fear and freedom from want for all, without discrimination. He argued that the essence of international cooperation was to secure equitable rights for all and a social and economic order where all rights are respected. He further clarified that putting human rights at the center did not require a stand-alone goal on human rights. Human rights principles would provide a common language for priorities that states had already agreed on. It would provide a framework for universal goals that was sensible to countries with different levels of development and resource endowments.

Mr. Šimonović stated that development is about rule of law, access to justice and personal security. Human rights could help people design goals more precisely; they set standards for

availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality. He also argued that human rights would help focus the attention of international cooperation to make sure all rights could be realized. Goals should be about challenging current patterns. Data must be disaggregated beyond gender and geography. Goals must be about international commitment for aid but also about meaningful reforms for global governance, which would mean ensuring commitment of accountability, for governments but also for private actors and international agencies. Responsibilities would need to be identified and monitored by an international body and complemented by accountability methods at local and regional levels. Finally, he called for urgent action to make “right choices” and to build a new paradigm on a firm foundation of human rights.

Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, Director, Copenhagen Consensus Center started his presentation by quoting the definition of global governance by Adil Najam, the management of global processes in the absence of global government. He argued that there were lots of problems and lots of proposed solutions in global governance, and that an economist’s approach to problem solving would be to analyze the cost-benefit ratios of all proposed targets and goals to identify the ones of best value for money given a fixed budget. Dr. Lomborg briefly introduced the current work of the Copenhagen Consensus, which was a cost-benefit analysis of each of the targets under the goals proposed by the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel in its report. .

Interactive exchange of views and general statements

During interactive exchange of views, as well as the presentation of general statements, the following key messages emerged from the discussion:

- Human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for everyone on the planet to lead a life of dignity. Human rights are universal and multi-dimensional, encompassing civil, political, social, economic, environmental and cultural rights. Human rights are cross-cutting and must be mainstreamed. The rights of women are centrally important in all domains.
- Good governance based on human rights, rule of law, access to justice and to information, transparency and accountability is a prerequisite for sustainable development.
- The right to development must be clearly and centrally reflected in the post-2015 framework, with full implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, putting people at the centre of development with poverty eradication at its core.
- There is need to ensure that the human rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized are upheld, including indigenous peoples, to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including against women and girls, and to promote economic and legal empowerment of the poor and of women.
- There is a need to strengthen policy coherence between development policies and human rights and to ensure that business globally respects fundamental human rights.
- Strengthened global collective action is needed to guarantee human rights and the right to development. Global governance arrangements should promote the equal chances for development of all people, and mobilize collective action to protect and manage global commons and public goods.
- The reform of the international financial and economic architecture should continue to promote inclusiveness and adequate representation of developing countries.

- An effective United Nations system, as cornerstone of multilateral governance, must play a central role in achieving sustainable development, including ensuring effective monitoring of progress and accountability of all stakeholders through the High-level Political Forum.

*Closing Session*¹

On Friday afternoon, Co-Chair Kōrōsi presented the closing remarks of the Co-Chairs, summarizing the discussions of the sixth session of the Open Working Group. Member States were then invited to react to the Co-Chairs' bullet point summary, which was distributed in the chamber.

Co-Chair Kamau reminded the group to stay focused on finishing the last two stock-taking sessions and shared some preliminary thoughts on the way forward. He proposed that the final report could consist of a narrative, attaching a set of SDGs, with or without targets; that the narrative would be faithful to the Rio+20 outcome document with reflection on the stock-taking sessions; and that the group would have both formal and informal meetings. There could be five sessions from March to July 2014 (3 to 7 March, 31 March to 4 April, 5 to 9 May, 16 to 20 June, and 14 to 18 July), by the end of which the report and the SDGs would ideally be adopted. He reaffirmed the principles of the method of work of the group: transparent, inclusive, member-States-driven, participatory and consensual.

In the ensuing exchange, many delegations expressed the view that the narrative was already defined by the Rio+20 outcome document and did not need to be negotiated, and that the group should focus more on the goals. Before closing the session, Co-Chair Kamau reminded delegations of two upcoming informal meetings (with scientists and statisticians respectively) organized to support the group's deliberations, which members were invited to attend on a voluntary basis.

¹ Visit the OWG-6 webpage for more information, including the concluding remarks of the Co-Chairs and the overall summary: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1678>