

STATEMENT

delivered by

H. E. Stephan Tafrov, Permanent representative of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations in New York at the first formal meeting of
the OWG on Sustainable Development Goals
on behalf of Bulgaria and Croatia

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of my country, Bulgaria, and also on behalf of Croatia. We fully align with the statement ^{just}~~to be~~ made by the representative of the European Union.

Before I proceed, please let me say that we also share the views that have just been expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

At the outset I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the two co-facilitators of the process of establishment of the Open Working Group, the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Kenya. Their dedication and tireless efforts put this group on its feet and made possible this first important step in our quest to create “the future we want” in which nobody is left behind. I would also want to acknowledge with great respect the contribution of Brazil to the process that let us reach this stage.

The work of the Open Working Group should have been started long time ago. Now, when we are already in a position to commence our work, we should make every effort to contribute to the formulation of the post-2015 development framework which is of a fundamental importance to the humanity.

Since 1992 the member states of the United Nations have repeatedly renewed their political commitments to the sustainable development. Therefore we are happy to see the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as a fulfillment of one of the most important decisions, taken by our political leaders during the RIO+20 conference. The work of this group could help the international community to go beyond the declarations and agreements by creating a comprehensive and coherent post-2015 framework. Our two countries believe that this group represent an important step forward and in that regard we are ready to work in the spirit of transparency, openness and inclusiveness. We welcome the involvement in the work of the Open Working Group of the broadest possible range of stakeholders, including all of the UN member states, observers and civil society. Their input will be of a vital importance for the success of our work.

In pursuing a coherent post-2015 framework for the sustainable development which builds upon the results of the Millennium Development Goals review, we have to elaborate new benchmarks which need to be an inclusive process at every level – local, national and global. Bulgaria and Croatia, as members of the Open Working Group, are fully committed to contribute in good faith to the process of formulation of sustainable development goals which are applicable to all countries and relevant to every citizen on the planet while taking into account the different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

Achieving sustainable development is a matter of partnerships and networking. Commitment and actions are required by all countries, both developed and developing. Our two countries, Bulgaria and Croatia, stand ready and committed not only to contribute, but also to listen to the ideas and proposals made by the other participants in the process.

Bulgaria and Croatia believe that ^{development}~~growth~~ will be truly sustainable only when it takes into account the needs of the future generations.

I thank you.