

**Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Statement on behalf of the UN Regional Commissions**

**Delivered by Mr. Amr Nour, Director
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New York, 15 March 2013

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the five UN Regional Commissions namely, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA. Benefitting from the presence in NY of an expert colleague from ECLAC, he will follow up with a statement providing additional more elaborate perspective from the LAC region.

Mr. Chair,

Rio+20 laid the basis for the elaboration of the SDGs, to build on the achievements of the MDGs and to become part of the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, the Conference committed to mobilizing financial resources and capacity building for the SDGs.

Rio+20 also recognized the important role of the Regional Commissions (RegComs) in supporting their respective regions to effectively contribute to the SDG process. In this regard, the Conference requested relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the RegComs in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform the SDG process. We are honoured by the trust bestowed on us by member States and are committed to pursue this mandate in collaboration with our UN system partner organizations.

As an initial effort to carrying out this mandate, the RegComs have convened with their partners a multitude of regional consultations on the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs, including through the Regional Implementations Meetings held to follow-up on Rio+20. Allow me to bring herein to the attention of this meeting a few key messages that we hope could be of use to the work of the OWG:

1. The need to act on structural gaps

The benefits of the MDGs are well recognized and many countries would like to see some of its elements reflected in the post 2015 development agenda. However, one key criticism of the MDGs is that they did not address structural issues. Rio+20 and other sustainable development summits have made it clear that we need a change of direction towards sustainability that makes the achievements made so far irreversible and that makes progress more ambitious. This calls for sustainable development goals which are universal, transformative, structural in nature, and that are guided by a pursuit of equality, wellbeing and compatible with our planetary boundaries. Our increasingly urbanized world therefore needs a structural shift to new consumption and production patterns that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

2. The importance to dovetail with the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Many countries expressed a strong desire for a single unifying development agenda for the post 2015 period. The SDGs must therefore encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development (i.e., economic, social, and environmental). This will increase the likelihood of convergence among the issues captured by the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. To ensure such convergence, the principles, core dimensions, goals and key elements of the Rio+20 outcomes will need to dovetail neatly with those to be ultimately identified for the post-2015 agenda. As part of this process, the SDGs should embody the Rio principles and should be identified with the overarching objectives of poverty eradication and achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns.

3. The key role of science and technology

The SDGs should be science-based and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development over time. In this regard, they should include clear and measurable targets designed taking into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and developmental levels. The process should consider approaches and means to strengthen the capacity of countries to collect, manage and analyze data required for monitoring progress towards meeting the SDGs. Supporting technological innovation and transfer would be critical in meeting these goals. Means of implementation, including technology transfer, should be a key part of the SDGs.

Mr. Chair,

The emerging consensus of the regional consultations on a Post-2015 development agenda is that structural transformation is vital for strengthening the regions' resilience to socio-economic and climate related shocks. It is the hope that the SDGs will pave the way for such transformative post-2015 agenda.

Finally, we believe that an inclusive bottom-up consultative process with inputs from the broadest possible stakeholders would be most useful for members of the OWG to flesh out goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs. To that end, the RegComs stand ready to support their member States with related research on indicators, measures and innovative solutions, as well as to harness their convening power and offer their most inclusive regional platforms to the members of the OWG.

Thank you.