

**Second Session of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable  
Development Goals  
17-19 April 2013**

**Intervention delivered by Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative of the International  
Chamber of Commerce to the United Nations on behalf of Business and Industry**

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to participate at this second session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on behalf of Business and Industry.

At the outset, I wish to join others in congratulating the co-chairs in preparing a robust and substantive programme of work and for setting a tone which is both inclusive and interactive.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have served as a useful framework for global action and cooperation on development. While they did not accomplish every aspect of their objectives, the MDGs mobilized minds, catalyzed action to combat poverty, and highlighted urgent priorities for the neediest and most vulnerable. Indeed, the MDGs created a global call to action unprecedented in human history. The MDGs have provided a valuable learning process and this experience needs to be built on as we devise the SDGs to be an integral part of the post-2015 development framework.

It is commonly accepted that the majority of poor people now reside in middle income countries. The process of developing the SDGs should work closely with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, engaging all countries, while providing enough space for each country to develop its own approach. The experience of the MDGs has taught us quite clearly that processes of top-down and bottom-up have to meet for future SDGs to be successful. We see strong potential for the SDGs to be more than the sum of their parts and the convergence of the MDGs and SDGs into a single coherent post 2015 development framework to be an important and desirable outcome.

The objective at the “centre” of each SDG should be well defined. It must be a “fundamental” that underpins all three dimensions of sustainable development and be viewed from both sustainability and development standpoints. Enabling conditions for sustainability will need to be front and center, building on a foundation of economic growth, improved quality of life, good governance, inclusion and strong institutions as key drivers of development. The SDGs should be based on best available knowledge on the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development and their interrelations.

The measures required to assess progress in implementing the SDGs must be thought out now and the means to monitor and report on results must be devised. There is a widely recognized need for accurate, detailed, disaggregated statistics which do not look at the overall national numbers but take into account the reality on the ground. Indicators and data collection are required at the local and sub-national levels if real impact is to be achieved.

The development of the SDGs should consider how to mobilize and channel resources most cost-effectively – for business, stepping up investment in and deployment of financial and technological resources, innovation and knowhow will be one of the most critical success factors for SDGs that are not unmet promises. It will be indispensable to reflect economic circumstances, opportunities and risks in designing the goals and targets as well as their necessary “support structure.”

Business is very encouraged by the opportunity provided to participate at this second session of the Open Working Group.

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair.