

# **Update on Open Working Group on SDGs**

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# SDGs: The Rio Surprise

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Timing is everything:

- Green economy discussions bogged down
- Post-2015 discussions heating up

# Rio+20 objective

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- Renew political commitment for sustainable development

SDGs: concrete expression of that renewed commitment.

-- but, the concrete has not yet set ...

# Enter the OWG on SDGs

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- Job: to deliver the Rio+20 commitment to propose a set of SDGs
  - by September 2014 ...  
...”for consideration and appropriate action”  
by the GA.
- 70 members sitting on 30 seats [cozy] ...  
but essentially open to all.

# Work of OWG

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- Two phases:
  - Stocktaking: early 2013 to early 2014
    - 4 sessions to date
    - 4 more to go
  - Drafting of proposal on SDGs, with narrative and goals/targets

# Broad agreement

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- Poverty eradication overriding priority: “leave no one behind” in words of SG’s HLP report
- Finish unfinished business of the MDGs
  - Build upon, learn lessons from them
  - Question: what have the MDGs meant in your country? How have they shaped your work?

# Hope

- SDGs should have at least as much impact as SDGs going forward
- should be ambitious yet feasible

# Challenge

- How to keep simplicity and focus
  - sustainable development agenda is complex
  - goals need to address not just the *social* but the *economic* and *environmental* challenges ahead

# Broad agreement (cont'd)

- Need single development agenda post-2015; SDGs an integral part
- Relevant for all countries, developed and developing
- With differentiation according to national circumstances, priorities



# Big unresolved question

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- What does it mean to have *global* goals, yet adaptability to *national* circumstances?
  - Do you have experience from the MDGs in your countries of how this could be done?
  - Where are *global* goals critical? What should be left to *national* gov'ts to define?

# Broad support for goals on

- eradicate poverty (zero poverty target for 2030)
- health: universal coverage?
- water & sanitation
- eradicate hunger (but also nutritious food)
- education: access + quality
- employment, esp youth

# Still to be discussed: not yet clear

- energy
- growth, prod capacity
- resilience to shocks
- climate change
- biodiversity, forests
- oceans

# Areas still contested

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- means of implementation
  - finance
  - Technology
- inequalities, including gender-based
- sustainable consumption and production
- human rights, governance
- peace and security

# Looking back, ahead

- 1<sup>st</sup> 4 sessions: productive, engaging: few major disagreements: MDG+ agenda
- Next 4 sessions: uncharted waters
  - Economic and environmental dimensions
  - How to achieve genuine integration?
  - How to treat MOI – cross-cutting, goal-specific? (role of different actors?)
  - How would a strengthened global partnership look?
- Final question: what would it take to make post-2015 agenda truly transformational?