



Distinguished Co-chairs,

The Permanent Missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Argentine Republic, and Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, present their compliments to the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and would like to express their appreciation for the work done so far.

As Rio plus 20 mandates, we understand that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is an intergovernmental process and, as such, deadlines to make observations should not be imposed. This is a relevant process to the international community and there are many concerns that should be consulted with our national authorities and civil society respectively. Negotiations of SDGs objectives and goals have to be UN Member-driven, the current format has reached its end; we must start informal consultations.

In this context, kindly be informed that we will send you a compiled document (s) with our revised and specific proposals on Monday 5th of May.

In the meantime, we would like to forward these preliminary general comments:

- As a general principle, negotiations of SDGs objectives and goals have to be UN Member-driven.
- As stated by the Co-Chairs, we believe the document is under their own responsibility, and therefore does not necessarily reflect the positions presented by all Un Members.
- The process of defining SDGs was launched at the Rio+20 Conference and, therefore, any work must take into account the outcome of Rio+20, and the reaffirmation of the Rio principles agreed in that Conference. Therefore, we want to express our concern that the document circulated by the Co-chairs ignores basic tenets of that outcome, especially the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities.
- Moreover, the whole question of development involves addressing the issue of existing asymmetries between developed and developing countries and negotiating ways in which they may be overcome. This is recognized in the



Rio principles and, also, for instance, in the Doha Round Mandate for trade multilateral negotiations and the UNFCCC. Thus, this should be also recognized in any SDG document.

- In the diverse Focal Areas, no appropriate means of implementation are being specifically identified, and Focus Area 15 addresses “Means of Implementation” in a way which does not sufficiently take into account the asymmetries mentioned above, placing most of the weight of development finance on developing countries.
- Negotiation of means of implementation should precede any definition of commitments to be made by countries with regard to sustainable development goals.
- The agriculture, industry and economic growth-related focus areas, including sustainable consumption and production, are very unbalanced, and could lead to disguised restrictions on international trade.
- We emphasise our disagreement with the inclusion of Focus area 16 (ex 19).
- The “Endnotes” which close the document run against UN and multilateral fora practice as it is not common practice to include attributions in this kind of documents. Secondly, they do not accurately reflect the real positions of the countries mentioned, and this could lead to a discussion of the different attributions, what could not be helpful to make progress in the negotiations.
- The document uses language which has not been agreed either in UNGA or in multilateral fora with primary responsibility in the negotiations of the subjects it deals with, such as, for example, “climate-smart agriculture”. Using concepts with no multilateral consensus should be avoided, as well as prejudging discussion that are taking place in the competent fora.
- There is unnecessary repetition of targets in the different Focus Areas.
- We will provide more comments and inputs during the next meeting of the Group.

We thank you in advance, as we are sure that our concerns will be taken in to account.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



To the Permanent Representative of Kenya
to the United Nations
His Excellency Mr. Macharia KAMAU
New York, NY
