

**Elements for SICA statement in the Third Session of the Intergovernmental  
Negotiation Process of the post 2015 Development Agenda: Sustainable  
Development Goals and Targets**

**March 23, 2015**

Dear Co-Facilitators,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Central American Integration System (SICA): Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá and Guatemala. We associate with the statements delivered by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China and by Ecuador on behalf of CELAC.

2. SICA strongly supports the mandate of resolution 68/309, which decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including its means of implementation, contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating the SDGs in the post-2015 agenda.

3. The SDGs proposal sets out a universal vision to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions as its main goal in order to achieve sustainable development. The SDGs also include the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and incorporate global challenges that are relevant for SICA countries, such as reducing inequality and combating climate change. The SDGs are also forward looking, including on the issue of migration, which is one of our main challenges. We expect the SDG proposal to be at the heart of the post-2015 agenda.

Dear Co-Facilitators,

4. It is time to focus on the implementation of the SDGs and defining the correct global indicators is an important aspect of implementing the post-2015 agenda. These indicators should measure several targets. In this regard, we value the work done by the Statistical Commission at its 46<sup>th</sup> session. At this juncture, it would be beneficial to ensure the widest participation of developing countries, as ownership of this process is indispensable.

5. We would like to remind colleagues of target 17.19, for us there is a need to measure progress beyond GDP and account for human well-being and equity. For middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, measuring progress only through the lens of income offers an incomplete picture of the challenges that our countries need to overcome in order to achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we need to develop comprehensive methods that fully recognize the multidimensionality of poverty.

6. We also believe that the post-2015 agenda should be transformative and comprehensive and needs to address gender equality and women's empowerment based on substantive equality, we recognize that the SDGs offer a gender perspective in all its goals, targets, and expect also through the indicators. Furthermore, we consider that indicators need to take into account the challenges faced by indigenous peoples, migrants, afro-descendants, older persons and persons with disabilities.

7. As the G77 and China stated, we share the view that global indicators should not be developed or negotiated in the intergovernmental process. National indicators should be implemented according to national capacities and development levels.

8. We consider that the United Nations Regional Commissions should play a constructive role in measuring progress. It is necessary to develop regional mechanisms of follow-up, including the possibility to adapt global indicators to the regional dimension. Regional Commissions, at the request of countries, could also support the development of national indicators and adequate human, financial and technical resources must be ensured in order to achieve this task.

9. For our region, it is of paramount importance to provide capacity building and technology transfer for the institutions that are responsible to define national indicators. For SICA countries, defining the correct indicators is of outmost importance, if they are poorly constructed, they can often <sup>poorly</sup> mask success, but in reality, they have not taken into account the most vulnerable populations, this is one of the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Last but not least, the proposed global indicators should remain faithful to the targets contained in the SDGs proposal, including the targets under the means of implementation.

Thank you.