

**Speaking Notes 1st Meeting Open Working Group on SDGs
14 March 2013**

General Remarks:

- Welcome convening of the WG
- Hope for transparent and inclusive approach and hope for focused and results-oriented spirit
- SDGs enjoy the broadest and highest political support and constitute one of the main results of the Rio+20 outcome
- They will be the main driver of the UN post-2015 development agenda

Substantive Remarks:

- It will be crucial to benefit from the strengths of the MDG campaign and make an honest assessment of its shortcomings
- An essential success factor for working out the SDGs will be that the spirit of Rio will drive discussions of the technical aspects of the SDGs
- Leaders in Rio clearly stated that development efforts are only sustainable with a broad and balanced understanding of its three dimensions – social, economic and environmental. Whatever Goals and indicators will result of this process, equal and fair consideration of the three dimensions must be assured. Goals must be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable
- Leaders also clearly acknowledged that the SDGs must be consistent with international law. A strong rule of law dimension will be essential to make the SDGs effective and successful, as decided at the high level event on RoL last September
- The SDGs should contribute in particular to the full enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of individuals as set out in the United Nations human rights instruments
- Liechtenstein has advocated consistently for a rights based approach to development to ensure that the living conditions of every human being allow for the full enjoyment of all social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights
- We have all witnessed that the negligence of these fundamental rights constitutes a serious threat to hard won development gains
- We believe that the SDGs must have a strong gender dimension, both by way of stand-alone SDGs and by way of mainstreaming these aspects in the overall SDG process
- A rights based approach to development will provide us with a clear guiding principle to achieve sustainable and environmentally sound economic growth, to reduce current inequalities and eliminate the scourge of poverty in the world
- Liechtenstein looks forward to participating actively in the process of the Open Working Group and we wish us all success in this common endeavor