



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

304 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017  
Tel No. (212) 503-0300 Fax No. (212) 949-5999

CHAN/412/14/NL

25 July 2014

Excellencies, *Dear Csaba & Macharia,*

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to your Excellencies from the Arab countries members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, with respect to addressing the issue of foreign occupation in the proposed set of Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by the Open Working Group on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

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

*M. Mootaz*

Sincerely,  
Permanent Representative

Ambassador / Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil

H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations  
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDG's

H.E. Mr. Csaba Körösi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations  
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDG's

C.C. All Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA  
to the United Nations  
New York



البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية  
البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك



Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations in New York



The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations  
New York



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Excellencies,

At the outset, our Countries, the Arab members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would like, above all, to acknowledge the leadership you have shown in steering the work of the Open Working Group throughout its meetings.

However, and with respect to the proceedings of the conclusion of the last meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, our countries regret the fact that the request made by Tunisia to take the floor on behalf of the Arab Group has been denied. This prevented the Group from expressing its views on the final version of the proposed set of sustainable development goals before adoption.

We further regret that the issue of ending all forms of foreign occupation and colonial domination was not included under goal 16 on "Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels", where it naturally belongs. In this context, our countries would like to refer to the letters addressed to you by the Arab Group on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, as well as to the Arab Group's interventions and comments in this regard during the last meeting of the Open Working Group on SDGs, held from 14-19 July 2014, and reaffirm the Arab Group's position on this matter.

In this respect, our countries went along with the approval of sending the document to the General Assembly, with the understanding that target 16.1 on "Significantly Reducing All Forms of Violence", applies to ending foreign occupation, as it is one of the most extreme forms of

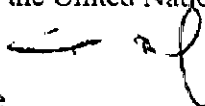
violence. Our understanding also is that target 16.3 on "Promoting the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels" applies to the situation in the occupied territories in Palestine and other Arab territories, through the full implementation of all the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC resolutions on ending foreign occupation and colonial domination in the occupied territories in Palestine and other Arab occupied territories, as well as the application of the relevant provisions of international law and international humanitarian law including the four Geneva Conventions to the Arab occupied territories.

This is particularly relevant in view of the current tragic situation in Gaza where hundreds of innocent civilians, mostly women, children and elderly are under an illegal blockade and brutally bombarded and killed by the occupation forces.

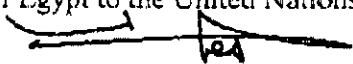
Our countries, being the Arab members of the Open working Group, request that this statement be registered as part of the official record and of the report of the Open Working Group.

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

**Sabri Boukadoum**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Algeria to the United Nations

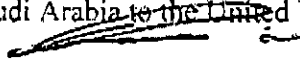


**Mootaz Ahmadcin Khalil**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Of Egypt to the United Nations

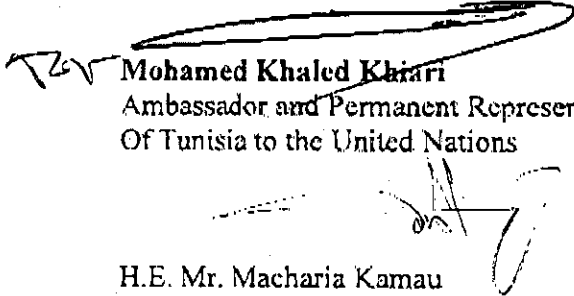


**Omar Hilale**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Of Morocco to the United Nations

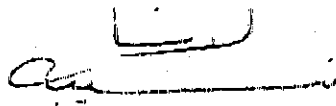
**Abdallah Al-Mouallimi**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations



**Mohamed Khaled Khiri**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Of Tunisia to the United Nations



**Lana Nusseibeh**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Of United Arab Emirates to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations  
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs

H.E. Mr. Csaba Korosi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations  
Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs

C.C. All permanent and observer Missions to the United Nations

CC: Mr. Nikhil Seth  
Director, Division for Sustainable Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations  
Telefax: (212) 963-4260

Mr. Ion Botnaru  
Director, General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division  
Department for General Assembly and Conference Management  
United Nations  
Telefax: (212) 963-5305