

**Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Agenda
Goals and Targets session - 23-27 March 2015, New York**

**German Statement on
“Technical Proofing of the SDGs ”**

by

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Mr. Co-Chair,
Honourable delegates,

Germany **aligns** itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In our national capacity we would like to highlight some points in the light of yesterday's discussions.

- **Let me stress our clear message: the SDG proposal** shall be the **main basis** for integrating SDGs into the post-2015-agenda. We agree with G77 that we achieved a sensitive political balance in the OWG which we do not want to endanger and **any technical proofing must not touch any substantial content** of the SDG proposal.
- We **thank the Co-Facilitators for their effort** to further strengthen our work. The proposal brought forward by them is a valuable contribution to improve the **credibility** of the agenda.
- We are convinced that **some more work has to be done on the targets** before their final adoption in September:
Firstly, we acknowledge that the SDG proposal includes some targets where political decisions will have to be taken. We would like to constructively work on this. We can hardly imagine to “sell” the SDGs as innovative and ambitious with still “x” and “y” in it – not having a vision and common understanding of what we **globally** want to achieve through the different contributions of us all. Para 18 of the OWG chapeau call on all of us to carefully consider the global level of ambition when we define our national targets. A global quantified target shall give us the needed **guidance** for this.

Secondly, we should assure that targets are consistent with, and not fall below UN standards and agreements or contradict international legal frameworks. We should address cases where proposed language does not meet this. There should not be any backsliding in the level of ambition which has guided the international community in other fora by our agenda. This is why we see indispensable to bring SDG targets in line with existing international commitments.
- Therefore we **support the offer of the Co-Facilitators** that the UN system comes back on this with the support of scientific expertise and provides proposals for

possible appropriate settings to fill the “x” and to overcome the described inconsistencies as soon as possible, which we should discuss constructively.

- Work on this should be guided by our common understanding that it is important to **preserve the political balance and breadth of the OWG's SDG proposal**, including preserving the inter-linkages across the three dimensions. We therefore prefer the term “technical proofing” instead of “re-view”.
- **Members States shall then agree or disagree on the proposed modifications.**

Communication

- I would like to add some words on the **communication aspect**: the SDG proposal is complex as the world is complex: it has to be like this. The proposal reflects the complexity and the variety of the contemporary challenges of sustainable development. It provides guidance for transformational solution paths embodying four major innovations of the post-2015 vision for sustainable development: its universality; the full and balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development without omitting governance and peaceful societies within its goals and targets.
- But this complexity is difficult to communicate.
- Therefore I would like to reiterate that we should continue our exchange on **how to better make the world understand what** the agenda for sustainable development is about - to be easily understood and to spur action worldwide.
- Let me remember you that part of the **success of the MDGs** was their communicability and that they were easily understood in all parts of the world and society. Following this success model the new agenda needs an effective communication tool.
- This communication tool does not intend to diminish the SDGs in their substance; it should not reduce them or simplify them. But it should speak to those who are not so deeply involved in the process to understand the **new spirit of the agenda** to spur support and action worldwide.
- Therefore we welcome the **idea of the UN-SG** to reflect the new, holistic and transformative spirit of the agenda in overarching key messages.
- In our view these messages should be improved to be inspiring, easily understandable and spur action worldwide. These messages should use innovative and appealing language to engage everybody to take action and to reflect spirit and content of the agenda. As they should also reflect the richness of the agenda, in our view six messages will be needed, as proposed in the synthesis report.