

**U.S. Statement for the session on Goals and Targets
Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations
Delivered by the U.S. Special Coordinator
for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Mr. Tony Pipa
June 23, 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Co-Facilitator, for the opportunity to address the Goals and Targets chapter. As the draft Political Declaration notes, the proposed goals and targets renew and improve upon the critical ambitions of the MDGs, but notably and rightly take our ambitions further. They now include strong goals in previously underserved or overlooked areas - gender equality, peace and governance, sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable energy, oceans - with the potential for long-term transformative impact. The integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions reflected in the 17 proposed goals provides us a welcome and ambitious framework for accelerating and achieving significant progress on sustainable development.

To realize these grand ambitions, we see great value in ensuring the precision, consistency, and technical rigor of our agenda. Rio+20 and the MDG experience have together made clear the nature of our task – **to put forward to our heads of state a set of clear, ambitious, and measurable strategic priorities that are based on evidence and implementability, and a convincing rationale for how they will drive action and achieve results.**

And we know that the targets that most clearly and precisely communicate what we are trying to achieve are also those that are most likely to maximize and mobilize joint action and ensure the credibility of our agenda. **With this in mind, we thank you for the inclusion of the 21 targets proposed for improvement by the Technical Task Team in Annex 1.** The proposed revisions demonstrate how minor changes can greatly improve the targets' technical quality without upsetting the political balance of the outcome of the Open Working Group. If anything, these improvements strengthen our political bargain, and we encourage further discussion on this basis.

We suggest integrating these proposed improvements into our next draft so we can deepen our conversation on these proposals, and look forward to continuing it once the Financing for Development Conference in Addis is completed. We expect this conversation to continue into our July session as a result.

Regarding proposed targets 1-11 in the Annex, we believe that many of the proposed changes add precision and offer apolitical, technical improvements to our agenda. Prime examples include targets 3.2 and 6.3. The added specificity on neonatal mortality and under-5 mortality are both internationally agreed and offer clarity about how to achieve the intended outcomes.

We appreciate the co-facilitators' efforts to change "x%'s" to clear and specific benchmarks. We find this to be most productive in areas where added quantification has

resulted in recommendations of relative improvement, as in the recommendation of target 6.3, where “x%” is replaced with a clear and ambitious “doubling of water recycling and reuse.”

We also thank the co-facilitators and the Technical Task Team for their specific mention of continued improvement to the targets to ensure alignment with international standards. We see considerable value in this criterion for proposed targets 12-21.

Thank you for the chance to speak to this topic today. It is precisely this kind of dialogue and review of our collective, strong work to date that will help us arrive at the strongest possible final product, and set us on the best path for ending extreme poverty and driving the fundamental change and progress we all seek to achieve.

Thank you.