



Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Eighth Session

New York, 27 July 2015

Revised draft outcome document: Preamble & Declaration

Statement by Switzerland

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

I would like to join others in thanking you very much for the new draft outcome document. We appreciate your intensive and substantive work on the text over the weekend, as well as the consideration of many proposals made by member states, including ourselves.

Please allow me to start with a comment on **process**:

We appreciate the Co-Facilitator's approach to change gears now and to speed up the discussion on substance of the document. We believe that, in the spirit of transparency and in order to move towards a conclusion of our deliberations this coming Friday, it is important to hear all comments in the room, to allow for delegations to react directly to those proposals.

I would now like to refer to the **Preamble** and the **Declaration**:

Preamble

- Concerning the **Preamble**, we welcome the 5 “P”s as well as your attempts to better integrate the different dimensions throughout the “P”s. Having said this, we consider it important that we further mainstream the **environmental dimension**, in particular in the paragraphs on **People** and on **Prosperity**. We therefore suggest the following amendments:
- In the paragraph on **People**: instead of just referring to “water” add “... ensure quality education, **sustainable management of water, water supply**, sanitation and hygiene, and a healthy life for all...;”
- In the paragraph on **Prosperity**: “...We want to ensure sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth **with decoupling from environmental degradation**; promote decent work and employment for all; ...”
- In addition, in the “**People**” paragraph again, since human rights are fundamental to human dignity, we consider it important to also reference ***“non-discrimination and human rights, including of women and girls”***.

Declaration

- Speaking about **gender equality and human rights**, I would now like to turn to the **Declaration**, and start by thanking the co-facilitators for having strengthened language on these aspects.
- However, we note that the addition of many new text elements has led to a certain **imbalance** with regard to the overall objective of the agenda, namely poverty eradication and sustainable development.

- Our comments are therefore focused on ensuring “**balance**”. We are concerned about making sure that there is balance between i) the **different dimensions of sustainable development**, ii) balance in the way we reflect both the **purpose** (poverty eradication and sustainable development) and the **content** of the agenda, and iii) balance in the **selection of the means of implementation** that are explicitly cited.
- Hence, I am now focusing our comments on those issues that are really necessary to ensure balance in this text.
- **In paragraph 3**, after the reference to gender equality, we propose to add “... **and eliminate all forms of discrimination without distinction of any kind**”, as well as, in the last part of the paragraph, after “economic growth”: “**decoupled from environmental degradation; ...**”.
- **In paragraph 9**, the language on gender equality suggests that this will only benefit women and girls, while we strongly believe it is to the benefit of all. We therefore propose to reword the sentence in question and to split it into two sentences, one on **children** and one on **women and girls**. The one on children would read as follows: “*A world which cherishes its children and **where every child grows up free from violence and exploitation.***” The following sentence, on women and girls, would now read: “**A world in which every woman and girl enjoys in which full gender equality is realized for the benefit of all, and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment of women and girls have been removed.**”
- **On paragraph 12**: Concerning the references to ICPD and Beijing which were mentioned by a few delegations this afternoon, we would

like to express our strong support for these references as well as the reference to their review conferences.

- **On paragraph 15** and the challenges we are facing, we suggest to add a sentence on **gender equality**, which could read for example: **“Gender inequalities are pervasive in all countries.”**
- We welcome **paragraph 18** which highlights the broad scope of the new agenda which goes far beyond the MDGs. However, we need to add a reference to **universality** in this paragraph which is a fundamental paradigm change. We would therefore like to see a new sentence in this paragraph which would read: **“The new Goals are universally applicable and all countries and stakeholders will contribute to their implementation.”**
- **On paragraph 21:** This paragraph has become stronger, in particular on the engagement of men and boys, and we thank you for that. However, there is one fundamental aspect that is missing: the **realization of the human rights of women and girls**, as agreed in the CSW58. We ask the Co-Facilitators to add this reference.
- **On paragraph 22**, we support calls that were made by several delegations in the room today, to delete **culture** from the sentence on national differentiation. The Rio+20 Outcome document we agreed to, does not include culture as an element for differentiation. Moreover, there is already a strong paragraph on **cultural diversity** later in the declaration which covers this aspect more correctly and specifically.
- Concerning **paragraph 31** on climate change, we can agree with the specific reference to the **stabilization of temperature**. For the

rest of this paragraph, we share the view of the USA, Australia and others that prefer the previous version of the text.

- **On paragraph 35**, we strongly support the G77+China to include language from the **Addis Paragraph 40** recognizing *“the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development”* in the opening sentence of this paragraph. For us, the opening sentence would therefore read: **“We recognize that international migration is a the multi-dimensional reality of migration and in particular the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination.”** Similar also to the G77+China, we had questions with regard to the final sentence of paragraph 35 and would support its deletion.
- **On paragraph 38**: There is a bit of pick and choose amongst the means of implementation. In order to redress this balance, we suggest adding a sentence on **policy coherence**, a truly transformative concept of critical importance for our agenda. We propose to take the sentence of **paragraph 40** of the former draft which reads: ***“We commit to pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and with all actors.”***
- **On paragraph 40**: we welcome the reference to the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**. Since the Addis Agenda is not annexed anymore to the outcome document, we need to **strengthen the link** between Addis and this Outcome document, as the UK, Canada and others have stated. This could for example be done by adding that ***“the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda”***.

- **On paragraph 44** on the role of families, we join others in calling for specificity, and request to add after “*the role of the family*” the words “*in its various forms and the protection of the human rights of all individuals within families.*”
- **On paragraph 48:** We welcome and fully support the way you phrased this paragraph as an important complement to paragraph 84, in order to underline the significant role of the UN system.

Finally, Co-Facilitators,

- As we have repeatedly stated, for us **sustainable management of water** is very important, as it is essential for the achievement of the SDGs. Yet, references to the **protection and sustainable management of freshwater resources** or to **integrated water resources management** are still missing, although supported by many member states.
- We therefore kindly ask you to include references on the **protection and sustainable management of freshwater resources** in the **preamble** and **paragraphs 8, 10, 15, and 32**, and a reference to the reduction of **water pollution in paragraph 33**.
- Many colleagues in the room have already made such specific proposals, including Qatar on behalf of the Arab group, which we support. In the interest of time, I will not read them out again and would simply express Switzerland’s firm support for those proposals.
- With regard to the water reference in **paragraph 8**, I would just like to underline that, as the distinguished Ambassador from Palau also emphasized, we should be careful about how we reference the human right

in connection with drinking water and sanitation. We suggest to stick to the formulation in *Resolution 68/157 of the General Assembly* which is **“Human right to safe drinking water and sanitation”**. Any alternative formulation such as the one currently in the text risks weakening this agreed human right.

OP1 A/RES/68/157(adopted by consensus)

Reaffirms the recognition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;