

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON GOALS AND TARGETS – (New York, 28 July 2015)**

Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-facilitators,

The Group of 77 and China has consistently called for this entire report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to be fully preserved and not to be re-opened or re-negotiated in line with the General Assembly resolution that endorsed it as the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We are pleased that the latest draft of the outcome document has retained the goals and targets as they appeared in the report of the OWG-SDGs. We reiterate that these goals and targets reflect the global development priorities for all countries, particularly for developing countries.

Co-facilitators,

As we had indicated in our statement this morning, the Group of 77 and China remains fully committed to working constructively with you and others in the room to complete this process this week and achieve an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable development agenda. We are therefore willing to work with you in a constructive manner so that we can reach agreement by Friday.

In this context, we have considered the technical revisions that the co-facilitators have proposed and are willing to show flexibility in a constructive spirit, to engage on the proposals pertaining to replacing the “x’s” and “y’s”, despite our consistent principled position that the Goals and Targets should not change.

We would like to stress though that the Group’s engagement on the technical revisions does not, in any way indicate any intention or will to engage on any other goals and targets beyond the technical revisions proposed by the co-facilitators.

Co-facilitators, therefore turning to the technical revisions, the Group of 77 and China would like to comment as follows with regard to the “x’s”:

- 4.4 By 2030, **substantially** increase by ~~[x] per cent~~ the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and ~~at least [x] per cent~~ a **substantial proportion of adults** of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.b By 2020, **substantially** expand by ~~[x] per cent~~ globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, **substantially** increase by ~~[x] per cent~~ the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and **substantially** increasing recycling and safe reuse by ~~[x] per cent~~ globally
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and **substantially** increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people by ~~[x] per cent~~ and public and private research and development spending
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and **substantially** decrease by ~~[x] per cent~~ the economic losses relative to gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.b By 2020, **substantially** increase by ~~[x] per cent~~ the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement, in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and **substantially** increase afforestation and reforestation by ~~[x] per cent~~ globally

Co-facilitators,

Replacing the x's with "substantially" does, however, not solve the problem that the baseline data for several of the targets remain unavailable, and we will need to include reference to the need for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity building in Member States, to develop national and global baseline where they do not yet exist. We need to commit to support to resolve the gap, and better inform the measurement of progress, in particular for those targets which do not have clear numerical targets.

I thank you.