

## **A Call to Action on the Environment:**

Intervention and Language Proposals for MGoS Meeting with Co-Facilitators of the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations, 28 July 2015

*Compiled by: UN Major Group for Children & Youth, Science & Technology Major Group, Women's Major Group, Business & Industry Major Group (point #3), WWF, ICSU, UCD, SDSN, Pace Center for Environmental Legal Studies*

Thank you for a very good revised draft. We offer three follow up points on the revised draft:

1. **The Scientific and Technological Community and Academia:** The text is inconsistent in referring to the scientific, technological and academic communities. We propose using the consistent formulation of: "**the scientific and technological community, academia...**", to be inserted into Paragraphs 38, 39, 47, 54, 62, 64, 65, 75, 80 and 81. Science, technology and research are keys to the implementation of this Agenda, particularly with the introduction of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.
2. **Planetary Boundaries:** We are pleased with, and strongly support, the inclusion of the language of "biological support systems of the planet" in Paragraph 15. However, we are disappointed that our language recommendations on "**planetary boundaries/thresholds/limits/tipping points**" were not included in Paragraphs such as 42, 50, or 79 (see annex). This language comes from the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, specifically in the context of the Science-Policy Interface, and the outcome of the Regional Implementation Meeting of the Rio+20 Outcomes in UN ESCAP. In addition, we support strongly the language suggestions made by the EU and other countries yesterday on the inclusion of "**Planetary Boundaries**" and "**Carrying Capacity**". We also recommend the inclusion of "**Natural Resource Governance and Accountability**" as new subparagraph (j) in Paragraph 70.
3. **A balanced message:** We believe that references to "eradicating poverty as the greatest global challenge and overarching priority" of the Agenda should be complemented each time with language recognizing that poverty cannot be eradicated without sustainable development (Preamble, §3 and §8). We propose the following language: "**As sustainable development is indispensable to eradicate poverty, we are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions**". In addition, we recommend including references to "**planet-sensitive**" in the Preamble in "Partnerships" and in Paragraphs 2, 28 and 70, to consistently complement the references to a people-centered agenda.

*“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.”*

-- Wangari Maathai

## **Annex**

### *Paragraph 10:*

We envisage a world in which every country enjoys robust, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in order to generate resources for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the achievement of sustainable development. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land to oceans and seas – are sustainable. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity **[ADD- and planetary boundaries/limits]**, and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.

### *Paragraph 42:*

We recognize the crucial role that science, technology and innovation play in the promotion of sustainable development in all countries. We recognize the power of communications technologies, technical cooperation and capacity-building for sustainable development. We welcome the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism in order to support the implementation of the Agenda. We commit to strengthen the role of the science-policy interface in sustainable development. **[ADD- such as the preparation of regular assessments and digests of the science around such concepts as “planetary boundaries”, “tipping points” and “environmental thresholds” in the context of sustainable development.]** *Directly from the SG’s Scientific Advisory Board*

### *Paragraph 50:*

Indicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that **[ADD- that we respect planetary boundaries/thresholds/limits]** no one is left behind. **Such** data is key to decision-making. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and middle-income countries.

### *Paragraph 79:*

Follow-up and review at the HLPF will be informed by an annual SDG Progress Report to be prepared by the Secretary General in cooperation with the UN System, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and regional reviews. Global indicators, recognizing national policy space, will provide guidance to national statistical authorities in their development of national indicators. The HLPF will also be informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall strengthen the science-policy interface **[ADD- such as the preparation of regular assessments and digests of the science around such concepts as “planetary boundaries”, “tipping points” and “environmental thresholds” in the context of sustainable development.]** and could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development.