

Co-Chairs' Summary bullet points from OWG-3

Food security and nutrition; sustainable agriculture; desertification, land degradation, and drought

- Open whether this set of issues will be covered by one, two or three goals.
- Recognition of need for a holistic approach to the close interdependency among food, land and water, as well as between these and others not yet discussed, e.g. energy, health, biodiversity and climate change.
- Broad agreement on the need to consider interlinkages, but acknowledgement that more discussion is needed on how these should be reflected in goals and targets, e.g. via clustering of issues or through cross-referential targets (e.g. “lego blocks”).
- The importance of a rights-based approach to food, water and sanitation was highlighted.
- Poverty eradication and an end to hunger and malnutrition are attainable in a generation or less.
- Access and affordability are important aspects of food security that deserve attention, while proper nutrition is also a major concern even of those who have adequate calories.
- Increased agricultural productivity and efficiency of resource use will be needed, as well as inclusive social policies. Increased investment in agriculture, including research and enhanced access to technology. Sustainable intensification to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems should draw on a variety of techniques that are widely known but not all widely practiced
- Smallholders, including importantly women farmers, pastoralists and indigenous peoples, deserve particular focus when crafting agricultural policies; access to land and credit need attention.
- Eliminating, or substantially reducing, loss and waste could greatly augment the available food supply.
- The urgent need to address the root causes of heightened price volatility, including through improved market information and oversight of commodity markets, as well as action to eliminate agricultural subsidies, in developed countries. The need for an open, rules-based, and equitable trading system that promotes rural development and food security was highlighted.
- Fisheries and their sustainable management are important in relation to food security.
- Addressing the drivers of land degradation, including unsustainable agricultural and livestock management practices as well as mining and industrial pollution, yields multiple benefits. Re-affirmation of the commitment to a land-degradation neutral world.

Water and sanitation

- Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water and sanitation are central to the achievement of many development goals, including agriculture, health and education.
- Universal access would greatly reduce the burden of disease in many developing countries, especially in reducing child mortality. Need to attain universal coverage of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in an ambitious timeframe.
- Water resources also play a vital role in economic growth and poverty eradication. The importance of transboundary water management was underscored.
- Addressing water effectively must encompass access, water quantity and quality, improved governance frameworks, infrastructure and technology, and water efficiency. Better preparedness for hydrological extremes will be essential to improve resilience to natural disasters.
- Need investment in, and access to, appropriate technologies for water treatment, recycling and re-use.
- Sustainable, integrated management of watersheds, wetlands and other water-related ecosystems is important to water quantity and quality and water regulation.