

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING BETWEEN MAJOR
GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGs
(2 October, 2013)**

1. The secretariat

- The co-chairs of the Open Working Group on SDGs requested the UN Secretariat to organise two one-day events between major groups and other stakeholders and the Open Working Group on SDGs. In response to this request, a secretariat has been set up and is coordinated by the Division of Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA/DSD). **The Secretariat will lead the preparation of the two one day interactive events**, including by hosting the pre-consultation on its website, and will act as the coordination point with Open Working Group co-chairs and other Member States.

2. The Open Group SDG Co-chairs

The Secretariat shared the concept note for the intersessional with the co-chairs of the OWG which were then discussed with them. The result of that consultation follows¹:

- The **Co-chairs of the Open Working Group have reaffirmed their commitment** to be present and chair at the two events, they have agreed to write to all Member States to request their presence and will circulate the outcome of the 22nd November inter-sessional at the fifth session of the OWG (25-27 November).
- The co-chairs would like to draw attention to their interim report² that summarises the result of their stocktaking discussions so far and some reflection on the way forward. They would also like to highlight the issue notes and documents submitted to the OWG so far³ and the issues covered in their programme of work⁴.
- They specially would like to underscore several issues from their interim report:

Para 20: There is widespread recognition that poverty eradication can only be made irreversible if the sustainable development goals advance sustainable development in a holistic manner, that is, if they address and incorporate in a balanced manner all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages.

Para 23: The need for a few aspirational goals that are easy to communicate was emphasized. Therefore global priorities will need to emerge from a common agreement on where national commitments and international cooperation are most critical to bring about greater positive impact and secure our common future.

¹ The letter of the Co-chairs is included as **Annex 1** at the end of this document.

² Read the OWG interim report here: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/941&Lang=E

³ You can read all the reports, statements and briefing notes submitted to the OWG here: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1300>

⁴ OWG topics and programme of work is published here: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1778Pow2805.pdf>

Para 25: Many felt that the sustainable development goals and associated targets should focus not merely on desirable outcomes but also on key drivers of sustainable development. There were frequent references to the cross-cutting nature of many of the issues under discussion, and the importance of achieving synergies wherever possible by systematically addressing their interlinkages.

Para 26: There are several enablers and drivers, strategies and approaches for sustainable development that may be difficult to enumerate as goals, among others human rights, rights-based approaches, governance, rule of law and wider participation in decision-making. The interdependence and interrelated nature of the goals should be captured in the narrative.

Para 30: Progress on sustainable development goals will require resources and concerted actions, and for this reason many stressed that a proposal on sustainable development goals would need to include provision for means of implementation such as financing, technology and capacity-building.

Para 32: On partnerships, it was noted that targeted multi-stakeholder partnerships have met with some success in mobilizing international efforts and resources behind specific Millennium Development Goals, and that similar goal-oriented partnerships could be effective in progressing towards the sustainable development goals.

3. The Steering Committee for the OWG Inter-sessional

In order to ensure consistency between the two one-day intersessional meetings, one single steering committee group will advise on the objective and methodology of the two intersessional sessions and criteria to select panellists. The first multi-stakeholder event will take place on Friday, 22 November just before the fifth session of the Open Working Work on 25-27 November. The second multi-stakeholder event will take place in early 2014 (date to be determined).

The steering committee have 16 members; 9 of which represent each of the nine Major Groups; 5 are stakeholders listed in para 16 of Resolution A/67/L.62⁵ and two represent Post-2015 networks who have been working actively in the Post-2015 development agenda discussions. It is important to note that the composition of this steering committee aims to be as inclusive as possible so as to bring the widest and best expertise to the OWG. It should not be construed at a precedent to interpret which communities should/could take part in the HLPF under para 16 which will follow its own process.

Role of members: will provide ideas on the objective and format of the intersessional sessions taking into account the ideas already gathered by the Secretariat through a crowd sourcing exercise conducted last June. They will also nominate panellists for the sessions (however, they cannot nominate themselves as their role is to coordinate wider participation).

Role of alternates: alternates can replace main members when they are not available for meetings/conference calls. They will be copied in all communications with the secretariat to ensure coordination.

⁵ [...] such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development [...] See the resolution here: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/67/letters/pdf/Sustainable%20Development%20-%20HL%20Political%20Forum%20-%201%20July%202013.pdf>

Code of Conduct: The UN advances the multilateral agenda by convening all actors to contribute to decision making and in developing and implementing solutions that brings us closer to peace and sustainability through intergovernmental processes. Sustainable development requires the contribution of all actors and sectors and constructive and collegiate dialogues conducted in a respectful environment. Members of the steering committee commit themselves to contribute to this work in a constructive and respectful manner. They commit to consult with the constituencies that nominated them and put forward suggestions that enable different voices to be heard in a way that is constructive and based on experiences on the ground.

Major Groups

1	Louise	Kantrow	International Chamber of Commerce	Business and Industry
2	Chris	Dekki	Pax Romana	Children and Youth
3	Galina <i>alternate</i> Grace	Angarova Balawag	Pacific Environment Tebtebba	Indigenous Peoples <i>Indigenous Peoples alternate</i>
4	Maruxa	Cardama	ICSU	Local Authorities
5	Gisbert	Glaser		Scientific and Technological
6	Sascha	Gabizon	WECF	Women
7	Matt	Simonds	TUAC	Workers and Trade Unions
8	Carlos	Marentes	Via campesina	Farmers
9	Sameer	Dosani	ActionAid-International	NGOs

Other para 16 stakeholders

10	Vladimir	Cuk	International Disability Alliance	Disabilities Community
11	Gill	Greer	Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA - New Zealand)	Volunteer
<i>alternate</i>	Ben	Ngutu	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO Jitolee – Kenya).	Volunteer
12	James	Collins	NGO Committee on Ageing	Ageing People ⁶
13	Celine	Paramundayil	Medical Mission Sisters	Financing for Development
<i>alternate</i>	Sally	Dunn	Loretto community	Financing for Development
14	Paul	Quintos	IBON International	Social movement/People's Goals ⁷

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Post-2015 Networks

15	Hemsing	Hurrynag	Development Indian Ocean Network	Beyond-2015
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⁶ James will serve as focal point until the Ageing people conclude their consultation to nominate their representative.

⁷ Membership confirmation pending final non-objection measure in place until Friday 4 October, 2013

Alternate	Debra	Jones	Save the Children	Beyond-2015
16 alternate	Marta Rosa	Benavides Lizarde	GCAP GCAP	GCAP GCAP

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ANNEX 1.

One day Inter-sessional meeting between Major Groups and other Stakeholders and the Open Working Group on SDGs

22 November 2013

1. The Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs, Ambassador Csaba Körösi and Ambassador Macharia Kamau, welcome the efforts being made by the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to prepare for the one day Inter-sessional meeting on 22 November 2013. The meeting, initiated by the Co-Chairs, will provide another opportunity for Major Groups and other Stakeholders to present their views on the process and the substantive content of the work of the OWG on SDGs.
2. The Co-Chairs will be happy to be present at the meeting to listen to the views and will write to all Member States to request their presence on 22 November. They will be pleased to circulate the outcome of the proceedings of the meeting at the Fifth session of the OWG (25-27 November). They will also draw attention of the Member States and other participants to the major findings from the 22 November meeting.
3. On substantive issues, the Co-Chairs would encourage the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to continue to be bold and innovative. They should design the substantive focus to help Member States reach an ambitious and transformative agenda. An agenda which not only helps accelerate the unfinished business of the MDGs but also achieves irreversible poverty eradication in the context of sustainable development.
4. The Co-Chairs would like to draw attention to the interim report of the OWG (A/67/941) and the other issues notes and documents which have been issued in connection with the OWG on SDGs.
5. They would, in particular, like to highlight the issues already covered (para 11) and those that will be covered (para 105). They would like to underscore paras 20, 23, 25, 26, 30 and 32 of the interim report which, inter alia, refer to:
 - the need to advance sustainable development in a holistic manner and incorporate in a balanced manner all three dimensions of sustainable development
 - the need to arrive at a common agreement on a few aspirational goals
 - the need to focus on key drivers of sustainable development which may be difficult to enumerate as goals
 - means of implementation
 - multi-stakeholders' participation.
6. Thus there are a large number of conceptual and other issues around which the 22 November meeting can be organised. The Co-Chairs would like to express their support

for the organisational work and reiterate their hope that the meeting of the Major Groups will be a clarion call to all participants of the OWG to leave aside all timidity and help formulate a post-2015 development agenda which is bold, practical, ambitious and transformative.

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