

## Co-Chairs' Summary bullet points for OWG-8

### *Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity*

- The role as life-support systems of oceans and seas, forests and biodiversity was frequently mentioned.
- Healthy, productive and resilient oceans are important for poverty eradication, global food security, human health, climate regulation, and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs.
- Forests are key sources of wood and other forest products, water supplies, medicines, livelihoods, ecosystem stability, carbon storage and other vital services.
- Many underscored that biodiversity contributes directly and indirectly to the well-being of both current and future generations. The need to recognize the living value of species beyond their commodity values was noted.
- A range of threats to oceans and seas were mentioned, including: marine pollution including marine debris; climate change and its impacts such as sea-level rise; ocean acidification; unsustainable extraction of marine resources, such as overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and destructive fishing practices; and harmful subsidies that incentivize unsustainable activities.
- Many expressed concern relating to the access to and exploitation of the resources of sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- Some raised the issue of conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.
- The need to recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers, and their vital role in sustainable forest management, was noted.
- Various options for goals and targets were put forward. Some favoured clustering oceans, forests and biodiversity under an umbrella goal on healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems; others suggested that one or more of these areas merit stand-alone goals. In addition, many referred to the cross-cutting nature of oceans, forests and biodiversity, suggesting that targets relating to these could be integrated under other relevant goal areas – such as poverty eradication, food security, health, water, disaster risk reduction and others.
- Poor and vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by the consequences of unsustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
- Many mentioned the importance of capacity building, technology transfer and financing in relation to the sustainable use and management of natural resources. The importance of science-based policy making, partnerships and multi-stakeholder participation were also identified as enablers for implementation of sustainable management of natural resources.
- Many referred to existing agreements and instruments on the oceans, forests and biodiversity, and suggested that SDGs should be aligned with and supportive of these agreements.

### *Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment*

- Concerns were voiced by many about the wide and in some respects widening inequalities in the world, both within and between countries, which pose a risk to social cohesion.
- Experience shows that political space for inequality reduction can be created.
- Inequality can be addressed through affordable access to quality education, social protection, health care, as well as productive and remunerative employment opportunities. Policies supportive of entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises can also enhance opportunities for the poor, including poor women.

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- Social equity requires that vulnerable groups obtain equitable access to opportunities, basic services and participation in social, economic and political life. In this regard, persons living with disabilities merit particular attention.
- Gender equality was affirmed as an end in itself and as an essential means for sustainable development and poverty eradication. There can be no sustainable development without gender equality and the full participation of women and girls. Gender inequality is the most pervasive form of inequality in the world.
- There was widespread support for a stand-alone goal on gender equality, supplemented by cross-cutting targets under other goals.
- Gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment in the SDGs must be aligned with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the ICPD, and the Rio+20 outcome document.
- Many expressed broad support for a number of priority actions, including: preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; empowering women legally and economically; and strengthening women's voice, participation in decision-making and leadership in all areas of life.
- The recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, disproportionately borne by women and girls, was also recognized as an area for action.
- Many of you referred to the need to respect and fulfil the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals, including access to sexual and reproductive health information, education, and services. Others referred to the need to be consistent in this regard with the ICPD agreement.

### *Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance*

- Tackling poverty will require addressing the full range of its causes. Many stated that peace, rule of law, and governance are both ends in themselves and critical enablers for poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- While recognizing the importance of peace, governance and rule of law, it was also underlined that the discussions of the OWG should be based on the Rio+20 Outcome document, with a focus on the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- It was also underlined that conflict and violence undermine development and that peaceful societies are the basis for sustainable development.
- Conflict prevention and the pursuit of durable peace should address structural drivers of conflicts, including through promoting participatory decision-making, inclusive economic governance, and equitable management of natural resources.
- The impact of the lack of physical security on all dimensions of development is severe and long-term. In this regard, some mentioned rising citizen insecurity, trans-national organized crime, and the illicit arms trade.
- Open and effective institutions are essential foundations for sustainable development. In this regard, some stated that transparency was identified as a key component of governance. Action in this area could promote public access to information and enhance openness of government, as well as fostering trust in government institutions.
- Curbing illicit financial flows, could potentially make available additional domestic sources of revenue for social spending, as well as promote stable and peaceful societies.
- Many referred to the declaration of the high-level meeting of the GA on the rule of law at the national and international levels. The document, among other things, pointed out that rule of law and development are inter-related and mutually reinforcing, and that advancement of the rule of law must take place at the national and international levels.

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- Rule of law touches directly and indirectly on a range of sustainable development areas, including by: furthering inclusive economic growth through protection of land, property and other resource use rights; providing access to fair and responsive justice systems; and improved provision of public services. A number of speakers referred to the importance of birth registration and legal identity.
- Many countries highlighted the international dimension of the rule of law, including through reforms of international organizations in order to increase the legitimacy, transparency, accountability and representation of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions..
- It was also pointed out that there is no one-size-fits all model for the rule of law, which has developed subject to national conditions and particularities. National ownership was emphasized.
- There were calls for peace, rule of law, and governance to be reflected in goal form; many others argued that they should be dealt with in a cross-cutting manner.
- It was mentioned that there exist tools and indicators for measuring progress, although there is a need for capacity building and assistance.