



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission Of Kenya
To The United Nations

New York, 21 February 2014

Excellency,

During the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 in Brazil, Heads of State and Government resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government decided that an open working group shall be constituted, and that it would submit a report, to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

In January 2013, the Open Working Group was established by the General Assembly to steer the formulation of the proposal on sustainable development goals (SDGs). Having elected its Co-chairs and adopted the methods and programme of work, from March 2013 to February 2014, the Group conducted a total of eight sessions on the various themes identified in the Rio+20 outcome document. These meetings were guided by the principles of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and consensus. In addition special morning sessions were held with various stakeholders on the margins of the meetings to listen to their views and contributions.

Throughout the consultations, there was broad understanding that completion of the unfinished business of the MDGs on poverty eradication and other important social objectives must figure centrally in the SDG framework. The deliberations also took into account all the Principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development including inter alia the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 and in paragraph 15 of “The Future We Want” document, as well as the outcome document of the MDG special event held in September 2013.

The sessions were guided by the consensus that the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account the different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. The goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages.

Throughout our discussions, the group emphasized that eradication of poverty, inequitable development within and among states as well as protection of the environment are amongst the most pressing sustainable development challenges facing humankind in this century. The Group also reflected on the challenges that most states are facing due to inadequate means of implementation needed to achieve sustainable development. The Open Working Group has been considering the means of implementation relating to the realization of sustainable development, while also recognizing the potential contribution of other related processes to this end.

While the Group recognized that there are ongoing efforts at all levels to address sustainable development challenges, it also emphasized that action on ambitious focus areas on sustainable development could raise the international profile of the issues and intensify actions to address them. The issues will have to be addressed in a comprehensive, holistic, balanced and integrated manner. The highlights are contained in the summaries that were issued at the end of the sessions to serve as aide memoire.

The Group has benefited from useful information provided by Member States as well as other stakeholders. The Co-chairs have consolidated it and are providing it to the Open Working Group in the attached document, in order to start the process of building consensus. As the Open Working Group moves to the next phase of its work, the adopted methods of work shall continue to guide the process. The Co-chairs also reiterate their commitment to respect the international agreement reflected in the Rio+20 outcome document and to uphold the principles delineated in its paragraph 246 while formulating the proposal on SDGs.

The attached document does not constitute a zero draft of the report that the Group has been mandated to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. While the document is recommended for further consideration, the focus areas identified here are not exhaustive. Therefore, they do not preclude inclusion of other issues discussed within the context of the thematic clusters but that may not have been captured here.

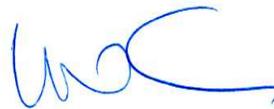
It is our view that the international community could realize greater impacts of the much sought transformative change if further actions are taken in these focus areas of sustainable development. This is necessary to build prosperous, peaceful and resilient societies that also protect the planet.

Finally, the Co-chairs ask Member States to begin, based on our document, the serious business of identifying SDGs and accompanying targets at the ninth session of the Open Working Group in early March. Going forward, we will at an appropriate time, and in light of discussions in the Group, provide a more concise document.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Mr. Macharia Kamau
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nation



Mr. Csaba Kőrösi
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Hungary to
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Permanent Representatives of Member States
to the United Nations, New York
(listed in Annex to General Assembly decision 67/555)

cc: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York