

# **Compilation Major Groups Statements and Focus Areas Responses**

## **Major Groups Statements**

The Rio+20 outcome document calls for Member States to work more closely with Major groups and other stakeholders, and encourage active participation in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning, and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development. Such engagement has been facilitated by UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development Major Groups program in coordination with the Organizing Partners (OPs) for each Major Group. The nine “Major Groups” of civil society were formalized in Agenda 21 as: Women, Indigenous Peoples, Children & Youth, NGOs, Workers & Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Business and Industry, Science and Technology Community, and Farmers. The Major Groups program is designed to be inclusive, transparent, and representative, and support a bottom up approach of non-state actors’ self-organization. Major groups have consulted hundreds of NGOs to develop the following responses which were presented at OWG 9. They are organized by constituency and thematic areas. Major Groups and other Stakeholders are now consulting and to present goals and targets at OWG10 in response to the Co-chairs’ request.

### **Women Major Group**

I am speaking on behalf of the Women’s Major Group, made up of over 500 organizations in 100 countries working to achieve gender equality and the realization of women’s rights and women’s empowerment.

The Women’s Major Group is pleased to see an integrated approach, with inter-linkages identified between the focus areas, in particular we are happy to see both a stand-alone focus area for Gender Equality and Women’s empowerment, as well as 7 areas where linkages to gender equality are indicated.

However, we are deeply disappointed that:

- 1) Women’s rights are completely absent from this document. Equality and empowerment are necessary, but they alone are not sufficient and cannot be achieved without firm commitment to and fulfillment of women's human rights.
- 2) Gender equality and women’s rights have not been made a cross-cutting priority across the entire framework and are omitted in key areas such as climate change, ecosystems and oceans

We appreciate that within the priority areas, you’ve addressed inequalities, the multidimensional nature of poverty, eliminating harmful agricultural subsidies, SRH, universal access to quality education among others.

Having noted this, we feel there are many areas where the document uses languages which falls back on existing agreements and lacks adequate recognition and use of the agreed upon language in the Rio+20 outcome document nor does credit to our collective aspiration of developing an ambitious, human rights-based, people-centered and planet-sensitive agenda that will remain relevant in 2030 and beyond. In this regard, we call for universal social protection which includes non-contributory schemes that acknowledge the burden of women’s unpaid care work and promote access to quality health, care, education, housing, services for all.

Respect and accountability for existing human rights commitments does not feature in this document. It is essential, as has been called on by major groups, member states, UN agencies and civil society that the Sustainable Development Goals be firmly rooted in human rights – taking a rights approach to development, to education, to health, to resources and to the environment – ensuring the outcome will be transformative and result in social, economic and environmental justice.

Feminist and other social movements have repeatedly stressed that the development agenda must be re-imagined. It must foster transformative, structural changes in the way global economies are managed and must position human rights enjoyment as the central and primary purpose. This can only happen if we unequivocally call for radical and transformative shifts in the systems and structures that have caused and perpetuated inequalities and injustices. The document must call for fundamental reforms that meaningfully transform the imbalanced structures of the international finance, tax, debt and trade architectures.

While ‘rights’ are mentioned only four times in the document, ‘growth’ is mentioned 21 times and is afforded its own focus area despite the evidence that the growth agenda often undermines equitable and sustainable development as well as the future of the planet. We must never repeat the mistakes of the past and prioritize short term economic development at the expense of sustained and equitable social development, environmental protection and peace.

We further recommend that the focus areas are complemented by a strong narrative that clearly articulates the need to redistribute wealth, power and resources; where human rights are enjoyed and where all humans can prosper and live dignified lives.

### **Children and Youth Major Group**

On behalf of the UN Major Group of Children and Youth, we are deeply concerned by the lack of focus on the needs and rights of youth, adolescents, and children in relation to each priority area. We would like to share our appreciation for the many delegations that have shared this concern. Young people support the urgent call for an ambitious and transformative vision as well as actionable strategies for achieving this.

To be ambitious, children and youth need to be incorporated as a critical priority area across all dimensions of the agenda but also in the form of youth-sensitive targets and indicators as promoted by the Common Wealth Youth Ministers. A true and inclusive global partnership can only be achieved with the full engagement of young people at every level -- not only in the design and development but in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to be transformative, we must go beyond an outdated linear growth model to build a better economic system, in which perverse subsidies, incentives and wage structures that increase inequality are not the norm. A specific framework that promotes ecological regeneration, reduces inequalities and human rights is needed and can be achieved by integrating concept of common but differentiated responsibilities for the limited resources within our planetary boundaries.

From the many offline and online consultations on the post-2015 framework over the past three years, good governance and the rule of law have emerged as a priority theme that is missing from

the focus areas. From our perspective, there needs to be a clear mandate and mechanisms for how civil society, children and youth in particular, to hold Member States to account.

Additionally, there needs to be a focus on human rights. For us, the children and youth, this is a red line. The post-2015 development agenda must be grounded in human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. We call for Member States to commit to fulfilling and upholding existing human rights commitments, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, elimination of the worst forms of child labor and ensuring social protection for young workers. We must go beyond mere empowerment.

We strongly emphasize the need to recognize intersections between all priority areas. In order to be transformative, we must move beyond the rhetoric, and commit to concrete actions to effectively integrate important cross-cutting issues across all dimensions of the SDGs framework.

Children and youth have the most at stake in the post-2015 agenda. We've shown our commitment to sharing our concerns, and it is a mistake to not include young people in the implementation of this agenda. Earlier, we have circulated a comprehensive response to the co-chairs focus areas that include concrete recommendations on how to create a Sustainable Future for us all. We hope that you will take the time to consider them.

### **Indigenous Peoples Major Group**

On IP engagement in the OWG process so far:

- 1) IP engagement in the process has been limited. We appreciate that the opportunity to participate, however, we are only able to bring 1-2 people for each of the session due to the financial constraints and what not. Regardless, we look forward to more IP participation and support.
- 2) While the process is supposed to gear towards interaction we did not find many opportunities for real interaction, engagement and consultation with member states. We hope that during Phase II we will find some opportunities to

On the Co-chairs focus areas document:

- 3) We welcome that the concerns of indigenous peoples are generally reflected well in the document and would like to stress the importance of being consistent in applying the terminology "indigenous peoples" throughout the document. The term "indigenous peoples", not "indigenous people or communities" is the standard as noted by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights mechanisms.

On specific focus areas:

- 4) Poverty eradication: Poverty should be viewed from a multi-dimensional perspective that encompasses a shortage of capabilities, choices, security and power, as well as of resources such as income. The \$1.25USD per day measure of poverty, however, is inadequate. For new SDGs we need to adopt and focus on a well-being measure rather than a goal targeted on income alone. Most indigenous peoples rely on non-monetary forms of income such as subsistence resources from hunting, gathering, pastoralism, and small scale agriculture and farming, which make up to 90% of IP livelihoods. Our concern is that the monetary measure of poverty can contribute to impoverishing Indigenous Peoples. Let's say a big agro business comes to indigenous territories, takes away IP lands

and resources, and IP communities are left with nothing but a choice to work for \$3 a day for this business. On paper, they are meeting the SDG goal of eradicating poverty. In reality, they are taking away IPs livelihoods and pushing people into poverty. Thus, the concept and measure of well-being should be the corner stone of SDG implementation.

5) Culture: We noticed that culture has received little recognition within the existing document. Indigenous Peoples' survival is supported by our cultures, providing us with social, material and spiritual strength. It is the core of our identity and key to our survival as distinct nations. Rio+20 highlights culture as the most fundamental dimension of sustainable development.

6) Governance: We are disappointed that the priorities summary does not include a separate 'focus area' on governance. In our opinion, the lack of the focus area on governance substantially weakens the post-2015 framework. For Indigenous Peoples governance is grounded in the right to self-determination, as reaffirmed by Article 3 of the UNDRIP. Furthermore, it is crucial for Indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making processes on policies and governance at local, national, regional and international levels, in line with the standards and norms outlined in the UNDRIP and other legal frameworks. Good governance applies not only to governments but also to corporate and other institutions. In this respect, it is crucial for the UN system, Member States, corporations and other entities to recognize and adhere to principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). It is imperative that their voices are listened to and this does not fall off the agenda and become weakened in the process.

## **NGOs Major Group**

*Intervention from March 3<sup>rd</sup> made before the designated MGoS session*

The paper is a good summary on what is discussed in the last couple of months, but nevertheless the NGOs are disappointed on the following issues.

- The OWG paper does not seem to subscribe to the principle that the post-2015 Sustainable Development framework be a universal framework.
  - o Many issues of concern in higher income countries are missing, such as obesity in the section on nutrition.
  - o It is highly unfortunate that industrialized countries are mentioned specifically – and only – in the context of SCP since this reconfirms an impression that other areas concern them less. On the contrary, there is much that all countries can do in all focus areas.
  - o The work of the OWG going forward should clearly state that the post-2015 Sustainable Development framework should be universal.
- The paper fails to take a human and planetary well-being approach – planetary boundaries are not really and seriously recognized, in the overall paper.
- The human rights principles of participation and empowerment are only addressed in a light-touch manner, with few concrete proposals for how respect of these principles would be improved, while governmental and corporate accountability is entirely missing. Rigorous, independent and effective accountability mechanisms will be crucial to ensuring that

governments and other actors respect their commitments. A variety of mechanisms will likely be needed given the scope of a post-2015 framework, both at national and international levels.

- The section on economic growth, read in combination with the section on industrialization and infrastructure, betrays a complete failure to recognize that current models of growth and industrialization negate basic notions of sustainability. If we all continue to aspire more and more growth in industrial and BRIC countries, ambitions to address climate change, protect the environment and restore biodiversity will remain empty rhetoric.

*Intervention from March 3<sup>rd</sup> made before the designated MGoS session*

When in Rio, NGOs welcomed the SDGs as a vehicle to overcome the shortcomings of the MDGs. We also hoped that the time for a Copernican revolution had arrived and that the world was ready for a new paradigm on the meaning of development and its intense relation to the environment. We were eager to read the report of the OWG, and although a lot of good points are made, we still feel a little disappointed. We are missing the historical opportunity to put Sustainable Development in the heart of all policies, instead of sustaining “the global economy”, which is anyhow for 95 % virtual, only serves the richer groups and is based on lots of speculation.

NGOs stressed the need for a systemic change, social innovation, alternative business models, visionary leadership, a rights based approach, and new innovative mechanisms for financing. NGOs shared many new ideas, practical proposals, and tools for implementation, which we don't see reflected in the text. We now look forward to sharing with the Open Working Group our proposals for each of the Focus Areas that we are now preparing.

Furthermore we would like to emphasize that existing international agreements must not be overruled or weakened by the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Rather, frames and goals should build on existing United Nations declarations, agreements and conventions, and bring renewed energy in their implementation and close existing gaps.

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda has to be based on commitment, accountability and human rights, including other aspects like full implementation of the polluter-pays principle and precautionary approach, appropriate transparency mechanisms, regular reviews, collective pressure and the option of holding states and private sector responsible and accountable for non-compliance.

For international leadership and monitoring, existing specialized UN-bodies should have an important role on the relevant issues (WHO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP...). This will give a stronger mandate to those bodies, as well a coherent framework for their future work.

The High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development should take a strong coordinating and facilitating role in the overall review and implementation of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The SDGs must, without exceptions, be universal (as we stated Monday) but can be broken down in national targets and strategies on the national and local levels. Those targets and indicators have to be presented and implemented in National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSSD). All goals have to be covered in all nations, but depending on needs and possibilities, the strategies can be different.

At last but not least, on the national and local level the NGOs are prepared and willing to support the achievement of sustainable societies worldwide.

## **Local Authorities Major Group**

LAMG warmly welcomes both your Summary Paper and the Focus Area document. We also happily acknowledge positive response in general from the Member States to consider this document as a basis on the way towards a Zero Order Draft, even though this does not necessarily guarantee the adoption of SDGs, as the birthday gift to Co-Chair Kamau, yet.

We are particularly pleased to read Focus Area 13 on Sustainable cities and human settlements and its numerous interlinkages with a great majority of other Focus Areas. We are also happy to observe the great support received from a broad number of Member States and Major Groups so far, which definitely encourages us to remain positive for the next phases.

At this critical milestone in the course of negotiations, the LAMG strongly encourages Member States and global development community to adopt a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization (Urban SDG) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We believe, an Urban SDG will:

- a) Provide holistic, integrated, territorial-based, inclusive, visionary and transformative solutions to address and meet the complex social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional challenges of the “Urban World” of the 21st century.
- b) Seize the opportunities that local and subnational governments entail as actors and governmental stakeholders of development and through urban areas as agents of national economic growth and as the locus of technological, social, and governance innovation.
- c) Foster multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration, necessary for concomitantly managing and planning urban areas, urban-rural continuums, surrounding areas, communities and ecosystems.

The adoption of such a goal will demonstrate the integrating and interconnecting role cities and regions play, their importance in global resource footprints, and their key contributions in achieving long-term sustainability for all by translating broad global goals into concrete real-world implementation efforts.

We also would like to underline that whatever the result of the final decision on sets of goals, targets and indicators for the post2015 agenda, “Implementation” will be the key question that remains.

In that sense, local and subnational governments, as being governmental institutions that are closest to citizens universally, commit to remain a strong partner of Member States and all stakeholders at the national and global level, to ensure implementation of SDGs, pursuant to our role as governmental stakeholders as, foreseen in paragraph 42 of the Rio+20 Outcome document.

In this regard, we also welcome the vision laid out in Focus Area 19 that refers to strengthening local and subnational governments and rule of law at all levels.

Within this spirit, we look forward to expanding and deepening our dialogues and collaboration with all of you to advance in the process.

## **Workers and Trade Unions Major Group**

The Trade Union and Workers major group congratulates the co-chairs on a commendable effort to try to satisfy all of the diverse and critically important priorities which the OWG has discussed over the last year--it is a sound foundation from which to proceed. We recognize then, that this is

something of a new starting point from which to move forward and work remains in further elaborating the focus areas and prioritizing them into a concrete set of goals and commitments. In interest of time I will share some feedback on just a few of the focus areas but look forward to offering more comprehensive feedback in writing.

Generally speaking, and following on several interventions already made, if human rights and the human rights based approach is meant to underpin the SDG framework it needs to be better captured across all focus areas. This process presents the international development community an opportunity to really boost policy coherence between development promotion and human rights commitments. Real progress in development is measureable by the degree to which people can enjoy fundamental human rights in practice and effectively exercise democratic participation and as a result create accountability at all levels—this is the essence of the human rights based approach and should be central to all focus areas.

Next, references to Social Protection need to be significantly ramped up, if not added as an additional focus area in its own right. At the very least, more concrete references to social protection must be introduced in several additional focus areas especially as it is an issue that responds to the three pillars. A sustainable development framework that does not include specific commitments to Universal Social Protection, through the creation and implementation of Social Protection Floors, will be a grave oversight. We emphasize that the Social protection Floor approach is neither a prescription nor a universal standard. It is an adaptable policy approach that should be country-owned and responsive to national priorities and resources.

On the focus areas already identified we first and foremost express our full support to the inclusion of Employment and especially Decent Work for All as one of the focus areas. This is an area that is critical and must be maintained in the SDGs in its own right. We would offer that decent work needs be fully articulated in all its dimensions and that priorities be organized under the four strategic pillars--creating jobs, social protection, rights at work and the social dialogue. In this way we can strengthen certain elements like fundamental principles and rights at work, the importance of labor market institutions, and the need to respect and uphold internationally agreed labor standards which are currently underrepresented in the current list of priorities. In addition, employment and decent work need to be better integrated across relevant focus areas. References to job creation in other focus areas do not seem consistent with the spirit of decent work as articulated under focus area 11. We also add that the link between employment and the different issues related to the environmental pillar need to be strengthened as we know for example adequate investments to achieve a low carbon future has the potential to create millions of decent and green jobs.

On education, we call on a stand-alone goal on quality education for all, from early childhood through to upper secondary education. The big missing piece in the focus area is free education, as tuition fees and indirect costs of education continue to exclude the most marginalized from quality education.

On Gender, we support a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, including the empowerment of women and the full realization of women's human rights. Such a goal must be framed to generate a re-organization of power, wealth and resources, with the aim of ending all forms of discrimination and violence.

With respect to the focus area on promoting equalities, we believe it should also be addressed through the lens of labor market institutions, and employment and decent work. Wage inequality explains a big part of income inequality, as the quality of the jobs created has not been significant enough to reduce income inequality, wages have remained at a low level and labor market tenure weak. We therefore suggest that any focus on promoting equality be founded on an integrated social protection floor, minimum living wages and collective bargaining along with other social policies as needed.

And this informs our position on the economic pillar:

Economic growth is a means and not an end in itself to poverty reduction and if not qualified, can potentially undermine environmental and social targets and contribute to greater inequality. Having said that, economic growth, especially as relates to the focus areas on industrialization and infrastructure, can be labour intensive and create decent work if complemented by sound macroeconomic and social policies. These include

- Strengthening collective bargaining and minimum living wages;
- Targeted investments in infrastructure to improve long-term productive potential and move to a low-carbon economy;
- Investing in active labor market policies to raise skill levels, support women's participation in the labor market and reduce youth unemployment and precarious work
- Investing in and supporting quality public services including education, health and energy to name a few

### **Business and Industry Major Group**

The United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 calls for a renewed global partnership to foster transformative changes that will apply to all countries, including: poverty eradication, tackling exclusion and inequality, women and girls' empowerment, managing environmental challenges, inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment, peace building and effective governance. We are now engaged in a critical discussion of development goals and the associated financing framework. The new framework for development cooperation should provide means to improve the mobilization and allocation of resources for sustainable development. The UN Secretary General's HLP report noted that "financing must be understood as one component of a strategy that includes private sector efficiency and public sector productivity improvements".

#### Enabling Environment

One critical and over-arching pre-condition for sustainable development is good governance and an enabling environment. At all levels – domestic markets, foreign investment and international trade – private enterprise requires an operating environment conducive to growth and development, including: peace and stability, the rule of law, good governance with accountability and transparency, the absence of corruption, adequate infrastructure, an educated workforce, clear property rights and enforceable contracts.

Business has a critical role to play in accelerating progress towards sustainable development as an engine of economic growth and employment, as a key contributor of government revenues, and as a driver of innovation, capacity building and technology development.

Creating the right conditions for private enterprise may require strategic reforms to long-standing regulatory practices to unlock the full potential of private enterprise and open markets in a way that can promote economic growth, environmental protection and social development.

Financing a transformative development agenda will require that available resources be used more effectively and strategically to catalyze additional financing from official and private sectors. Developing countries will need to increase efforts to finance their own development by improving domestic resource mobilization including by strengthening tax administration, better harnessing natural resource revenue, and curbing illicit financial flows.

The ability to mobilize domestic revenues reduces aid dependency and can raise country creditworthiness. Broadening the tax base, improving tax administration, and closing loopholes could make significant difference in lower-income countries where tax revenues account for only about 10-14 percent of GDP, one-third less than in middle income countries. Lower income country tax bases tend to be quite narrow, reflecting the smaller share of the formal sector in employment and business activity. Large informal economies and agricultural are rarely taxed. How can reforms in tax policy and administration best be achieved? International organizations and bilateral aid agencies have provided technical advice for many years. Looking forward, it will be essential that tax reforms are seen as egalitarian, socially just and fair in distributing the tax burden. This will also require that challenges posed by informality are addressed, including by identifying ways to tax the informal sector.

#### Emerging Sources of Financing – Bond Financing and Local Currency Bond Markets

In a recent report, the World Bank notes that international bond flows to developing countries with maturity of at least five years began to increase around 2009 as conditions for bond financing became more favorable for middle income countries. The surge in bond issuance was partly the result of policy-induced low interest rates and quantitative easing in high income countries which prompted a search for yield by global investors. It also rose from the recognition of the economic potential of many developing countries with improved credit-quality. The World Bank expects bond financing to grow rapidly as a source of development finance for countries securing a credit rating at or above investment grade. In emerging market and developing economies, local currency bond markets (LCBMs) present a potentially important vehicle for developing the domestic investor base and mobilizing domestic savings to support public and private sector investment in productive assets. The development of LCBMs can help promote a deeper and more efficient financial sector reducing transaction costs and facilitating risk management. The viability of LCBMs for long term investment depends critically on policy credibility and commitment, including through the establishment of the right macroeconomic, institutional and regulatory preconditions.

#### Critical importance of Rule of Law

A government structure is dependent on the consistent and systematic applications of legal rules. The lack of universal protection for private property and contractual rights constitutes a substantive constraint on economic freedom by inhibiting or disincentivizing investment and trade. As such, the rule of law and the protection of private property and contractual rights constitute an important prerequisite for private investment-driven economic growth and high productivity.

A functional legal system is not only key in building economic foundations, it is also crucial in safeguarding democratic values. Without an integrated system of institutions that create order and

facilitate daily transactions of all types – from traffic flow to business contracts – true rule of law and true democratic governance are lacking.

When property rights are not properly documented and property market institutions remain weak – as is the case in many countries – the informal sector dominates the economy and inhibits inclusive growth. Widespread informality leads to weak rule of law and corruption; in the absence of legal protection, that comes with property rights and the livelihood of informal entrepreneurs depends on the whim of local officials. When legal protection is out of reach for the majority of the population and when rules are enforced arbitrarily, abuse thrives and democracy cannot flourish.

### Recommendations

The promotion of consensus-building through stakeholder dialogue – notably between governments, business and civil society – is vital for designing effective solutions and for implementing them in practice. They create a shared sense of accountability and responsibility. Such multi-stakeholder co-operation may take place for example in the context of creating an enabling business environment.

Improved state-business relations can be assumed to contribute to a better understanding of private sector needs by the government and thus to a more efficient allocation of resources in the economy. A government that is informed through regular meetings with the private sector about investment climate problems will usually have stronger ownership for reforms. Being in constant dialogue with private investors is also necessary to enable public officials to assess where markets can be expected to work and where they are likely to fail and offer or withdraw public support accordingly. This can create trust between the public and private sector, make policies more predictable, and thus minimize the risks for the private sector. It can also lead to jointly planned, financed and implemented public-private initiatives to deal with coordination failures and public goods.

Business will continue to engage respectfully and openly with communities, governments and other stakeholders around the world in pursuit of the of sustainable development objectives. ICC and the Global Business Alliance look forward to bringing the vast real world experience of its business members to this effort.

### **Others stakeholders: The Aging people**

Looking back over the past two decades, we see clear signs that older persons, previously excluded, will be included within the next global development agenda. As we know, older persons were missing actors in the 20 years' work of the Commission for Sustainable Development; older persons were never mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators; when the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons met in New York in September 2012, not one Panelist ever uttered the words "older persons" or "senior citizens".

We've come a long way since then! For that, we thank the Open Working Group on SDGs for opening a broad dialogue with civil society, including older persons, on the issues to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. We thank many UN agencies, UNDP, DESA, UNFPA and others, for their supportive activities. We thank a number of Major Groups for their listening to and incorporating our concerns in their agendas. And, of course, we thank the Member-States that have spoken to the opportunities as well as the challenges that global population ageing presents.

Looking forward, we are generally encouraged by the February 21 report of the Co-chairs. Goals and targets to eliminate age discrimination and empower older persons (focus area 12); end all forms of discrimination against women of all ages (focus area 5); eliminate labor market discrimination against older persons (focus area 11); and provide lifelong learning opportunities (focus area 5) would enable older persons to become an even greater driver of social and economic development than they are today. We call upon the Member-States to seize these opportunities. Older persons are resources, not burdens, and need to be recognized as such!

On the other side of the ledger, the report also explicitly notes the challenges that need to be addressed and suggests the potential means to: eradicate or reduce poverty among older persons, including, inter alia, through social protection (focus area 1); to provide for the health needs of ageing populations, including through universal health care; (focus area 3); and to ensure social security for older persons (focus area 11).

We also would remind the Member-States that the terms “universal” and “all” by definition include older persons. They need to be included in goals and targets to achieve universal access: to affordable, adequate, safe and nutritious food (focus area 2), to safe drinking water and sanitation services (focus area 6), to modern energy services (focus area 7), to financial services and markets (focus area 8), to employment and decent work (focus area 11), to decent and affordable settlements (focus area 13), to public services, a legal identity, and to inclusive, participatory decision-making (focus area 19).

We look forward to partnering with the Member-States and all stakeholders as the set of sustainable development goals, targets, and indicators – with disaggregation of data by age and other variables where appropriate - in these and the other focus areas set out in the Co-chairs’ report is developed.

In closing, we reaffirm the charge of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons to the Member-States: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND! A society of all ages and for all ages is within our grasp.

### Thematic presentations

#### **Focus Area 1: Poverty Eradication**

I speak to you today on behalf of Beyond 2015 and the NGO, Women’s, and Indigenous Peoples Major Groups. I represent the International Youth Council in Kenya.

We welcome the inclusion of the following issues in the focus areas document:

- The multi-dimensionality of poverty
- Key human development issues, such as health and education
- Universal access to services, including Universal Health Coverage
- The importance of addressing inequalities for eradicating poverty in all its forms, and the identification of promoting equality as a focus area.

We have a few recommendations to ensure that poverty eradication is successful and sustainable:

- Poverty eradication must be pursued equitably and founded on human rights. This would require:

- TARGETS to reduce inequalities across all future goal areas and in all three dimensions of sustainable development, with preference to the most disadvantaged groups.
- The principle of “Leaving no one behind” – with universal zero goals on key human development outcomes
- A focus on a well-being measure rather than a goal targeted on income alone. This is particularly crucial for those who rely on non-monetary forms of income.
- Disaggregation of data, as well as transparency, accountability and participation of all stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and monitoring will be crucial.
- A focus on disaster risk reduction.
- Economic inequalities, in higher and middle income countries, must be strengthened in the document: Extreme poverty AND wealth accumulation should be included. Addressing power structures, redistributive mechanisms such as progressive taxation and universal social protection and services need to be part of the solution.
- Global economic and monetary structures that accelerate inequality must be tackled at a target level. Illicit capital flight deprives countries of tax revenues and fuels corruption. If stopped, there would be more resources to fulfill basic human rights for all people. These flows can only be dealt with through joint global action.

In closing, through numerous consultations, people living in poverty have identified three priority areas that are crucial in their lives in order to meaningfully contribute to society:

- Access to quality education and life-long training
- Access to decent work
- Access to social protection

## **Focus Area 2: Food Security and nutrition**

I am speaking on behalf of Major Groups: Local Authorities, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Women, Farmers, as well as the Food and Agriculture Cluster.

We commend and are encouraged that ensuring food and nutrition security for all and establishing sustainable agriculture and food systems is prominently placed in the document.

We remain convinced that a strong call for a transformation to sustainable, diverse and resilient agriculture and food systems must be made. We are pleased that many elements that characterize sustainable agriculture and food systems are outlined in the document. In addition, other characteristics include high resource use efficiency, minimized emissions and use of non-renewable inputs, strengthened ecosystems, farm animal welfare, strengthened urban-rural linkages, adaptation and mitigating to effects of climate change, and safeguarded rights of agriculture and food systems workers. We must also acknowledge food sovereignty as a key demand of the poor.

We are concerned that smallholder farmers as the critical “agents of change,” have not been given the necessary prominence in the document. Empowering smallholder farmers and other rural communities, in particular women and disadvantaged groups, is essential, including through access to productive resources, such as credit and other financial services, land tenure, and agricultural extension services, as well as through better access to education, information and markets, including fair prices for their products. In this respect it is also necessary to address the structural causes of what we see as the feminization of poverty, especially in the countryside and end all forms of

violence against women.

We note with concern that the right to adequate food is not explicitly mentioned. Given its overarching and transformative role in achieving food security for all, we request to include the Right to Food in this priority area.

Agriculture is equated with crop production and, at best, considers livestock production as a means to augment farming income. With livestock taking up three quarters of all available agricultural land and consuming well over one third of all crops produced, the livestock sector must be directly addressed in this focus area.

The correction of inherent market failures must include efforts to eliminate dumping, support the establishment of food reserves to mitigate price and supply volatility, and preventing land grabbing and excessive speculation on commodity markets through the establishment of commodity-specific position limits and increased transparency.

We note that concrete measures to support countries in achieving the food and agriculture related goals and targets are missing. In this regard, we wish to emphasize the role of the Committee on World Food Security, not only as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental body on food security and nutrition, but also with the ability to support regular global, regional, and national multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable agriculture and food systems.

### **Focus Area 3: Health and population dynamics**

I am speaking on behalf of the Major Groups Women and Children & Youth.

We welcome the inclusion of this critical focus area, though we see very little here on a rights-based approach to health, and **no recognition of sexual and reproductive rights**. We are troubled by the reference to healthy populations as assets, rather than people with the right to health. New investments and strategies for health and the development of goals, targets and indicators must be firmly based on human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

We welcome member states' widespread support for these issues during the fourth and eighth sessions of the Open Working Group.

Any goal on health must:

- Rest on the achievement of the **right to the highest attainable standard of health**;
- Ensure universal health care and coverage that is **based on human rights, addresses underlying and structural inequalities, and gives particular attention to women, young people, and marginalized groups** (such as young people living with HIV and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities).
  - o Services must be free from violence, coercion, stigma and discrimination and remove barriers to care within the health system, such as requirements for parental/spousal notification and consent. Services must respect the principles of full informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and non-discrimination, prioritizing the health of the patient over cultural or political views.
- End preventable infant and under 5 deaths and ending preventable maternal mortality and morbidity

- Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services that are **equitable, comprehensive, integrated, respect human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights** and are of high quality and accessible at all levels of care, especially the primary health care system.
  - o These services should include the ability to prevent unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV and AIDS, and ensure their availability even in times of conflict, disasters, migration and displacement.
  - o These services include access to and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to contraceptives, emergency contraception, maternity care, safe abortion services, prevention and treatment of STIs, HIV and AIDS as well as of non-communicable diseases, especially those that affect women most such as breast and cervical cancers.
- Guarantee free access to health services at the point of care, and ensure that health financing and systems are designed to eliminate inequalities in access to care and coverage;
- Ensure that all people, everywhere have access to a skilled, motivated health worker, within a robust health system, by increasing investments in human resources for health;
- Achieve universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases;
- Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to address the social determinants of health and the links between environment, food sovereignty, water and sanitation;
- Reduce the global burden of NCDs by adopting prevention strategies for key risk factors such as tobacco use, misuse of alcohol and other substances, obesity, and physical inactivity, and ensure that these strategies are anchored in human rights, promote young people's, especially those most at risk of falling into these unhealthy practices, access to vital health information and services

#### **Focus Area 4: Education**

Response from Major groups of children and youth, workers and trade unions, women, and indigenous people

We welcome the broad priorities outlined in the section on education, such as accessibility, equity, quality and completion, and consider them integral to what must be a stand-alone goal on education. The reference to the universal right to education is fundamental, but if we are serious about guaranteeing quality education *for all*, there are three key messages for you to bring to the negotiations.

Firstly, we welcome the emphasis on ensuring equitable access to education for the most marginalized. This has to be coupled with specific measures, and we would like to propose adding “free” education as a central element of an education agenda beyond 2015. The financial burden on households, i.e. tuition fees and indirect costs of education, still form the single greatest barrier to participation in education. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights insists on free education primarily at the elementary levels, and education cannot be equally accessible to all without eliminating fees at all levels of education. A renewed commitment to free early childhood,

primary and secondary education is urgently needed; by 2030, no child should be excluded from quality education because of cost.

This, in turn, requires sustainable and public financing sourced primarily from domestic revenue; government hold the primary responsibility for guaranteeing the right to equitable quality education for all. Education is the chief source of the full development of human personality and students from less privileged backgrounds must have access to education of the same quality as their most privileged peers. Education is source of emancipation and of betterment of the society as a whole, and is thus a common good that must be available to all.

Secondly, quality education demands more than a focus on learning outcomes. In order to truly achieve quality and secure relevant and important student learning outcomes, there must be specific and deliberate emphasis on educational inputs as well as the teaching and learning processes that yield these outcomes. Put simply, one can exist without the others. We therefore urge a broad interpretation of quality that covers all elements of the educational process, including broad-based and inclusive curricula, adequate teaching and learning materials, teaching and learning methods, physical environment, teacher supply and training and reasonable class sizes. Every student has the right to be taught by a highly qualified, trained and well-supported teacher, and to learn in safe schools with adequate infrastructure, facilities and resources. Without these critical elements of *inputs* and *process*, strong and relevant student learning outcomes cannot be realized

Further, for education to play its transformative role, our aspirations must go beyond a narrow and almost exclusive focus on literacy and numeracy as privileged learning outcomes. Education has the potential to provide people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and creativity needed to solve problems locally and globally and can actively contribute to sustainable and democratic social and economic development. These quality outcomes cannot be realized if we set our sights primarily or exclusively on promoting literacy and numeracy over the next 15-year horizon. Literacy and numeracy are important but not sufficient. Quality education should promote human rights, non-discrimination, and non-violence, challenge norms and prevalent patterns of production and consumption, and enable citizens to question and apply knowledge creatively, and take action for more just societies.

We welcome your commitment to education for sustainable development, and would propose that the scope is broadened to also include global citizenship education. Moreover, comprehensive sexuality education is an integral part of quality education and must be guaranteed. For Indigenous Peoples, it is important to include mechanisms for protecting, sharing, and promoting traditional knowledge and culturally appropriate education, in accordance with UNDRIP and other human rights mechanisms and legal frameworks.

Thirdly, the focus area fails to address the incredible gender gap in education; whereas boys will have universal primary by 2021, the poorest girls in Sub-Saharan Africa have to wait until year 2086. These girls will have to wait for universal lower secondary education until 2111. Moreover, two thirds of the 774 million illiterate adults are women and the poorest women won't have universal literacy before 2072 (UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2013/14).

Therefore, there must be a specific target on eliminating women's illiteracy by 2030. It should aim to provide formal and non-formal education for all women and ensure they are aware of, and able to exercise their human rights. Targets should include curricula to eliminate gender- and other

stereotypes, sexism, homophobia as well as teacher training for non-discriminatory education. Finally, the post-2015 agenda must include specific means to address the social and cultural practices that prevent girls and women from accessing and completing education and life-long learning, create enabling environments for girls' education, including safety, hygiene and sanitation and mobility.

Finally, it is time to go beyond a focus on access to primary education; ensuring completion of a full cycle of education requires specific targets on ensuring free access to and completion of early childhood as well as secondary education, as well as disaggregated data for the different levels.

### **Focus Area 5: Gender Equality and women's empowerment**

I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Groups, Major Group for Children and Youth as well as NGOs Major Group.

At OWG 8 - About 100 countries from all regions, speaking individually or in groups, supported a two-pronged approach to gender equality and women's empowerment in the SDGs. This support has been echoed in different regional meetings in Africa, the Arab Region and in Latin America and the Caribbean with calls for a specific goal on gender equality. We applaud the Co-chairs for taking note of this - with the inclusion of a focus area on gender equality and women's empowerment. We are equally pleased to see an integrated approach, with inter-linkages identified between the 19 focus areas

However, there are several areas where the document needs to be strengthened:

- 1) Unlike the Co-Chairs summary document of OWG 8: women's rights are not featured in the document which weakens the progressive language that called for Gender Equality, women's rights and women's empowerment;
- 2) The document does not also call for the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, done mostly by women and migrant domestic workers;
- 3) The document does not guarantee the sexual and reproductive rights of women of all ages, especially adolescent girls, and it does not guarantee sexual, bodily and reproductive autonomy free from stigma, discrimination and violence;
- 4) The impact and burden of disasters on vulnerable groups and their productive assets has also not been addressed.

We therefore suggest to strengthen the document and add to the existing language, the mention of:

- Women's access to justice; including an end to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination in the public and private spheres, as well as an end to sexual violence perpetrated during and after conflict and natural disasters;
- The provision of comprehensive sexuality education programs that promote respect for human rights, non-discrimination, gender equality, non-violence and peace-building;

We reiterate references made to:

- Eliminate early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honor killings, child labor and the trafficking of children, especially girls;
- Guarantee the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls at all public and private spheres, including in decision making and leadership, and in all peace processes
- Women's equitable access to, control over and ownership of resources that promote fair asset redistribution among different social groups, including land, water, oceans, credit, information, technology, intellectual and cultural property
- Eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, – which the World Bank says exist in over 120 countries by law – and practices that contribute to gender inequalities, inhibit access to services and rights, and criminalize or stigmatize children, adolescents, and young people; promote access to legal advocacy for the disenfranchised.

We recommend the recognition of the importance of the means of implementation and recall Ireland's intervention this morning regarding financing for gender equality. In the spirit of partnership, we commit to jointly develop these targets and subsequent indicators as well as to contribute technical expertise on gender mainstreaming in each of the aforementioned areas.

We additionally call for reference to be made to guiding frameworks that support women's rights and women's empowerment such as CEDAW, The Beijing Platform for Action, ICPD and the Rio +20 outcome document.

In conclusion, we look forward to continued collaboration between women and men, governments and civil society so as to achieve the set commitments. The realization of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment will go a long way in ensuring a just, fair, equitable and sustainable world.

#### **Focus Area 6: Water and Sanitation**

I am speaking on behalf of the NGO Mining Working Group, the Women's Major Group and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group.

First, we must go beyond the natural resource focus and see that:

- Water is life, a right in itself and also a right on which so many others depend.
- Water is not a commodity.

Second, we need more than a water-secure world; we need a water just and sustainable world.

Third, we must look underneath the water challenges named and address the root causes: namely, the unjust appropriation of water resources through privatization and commodification.

Furthermore, in addition to addressing pollution, protection and restoration of water-linked ecosystems, which we commend, the **goal and targets must include:**

The guarantee and realization of the right to water and sanitation, including for future generations, and the progressive elimination of inequalities; especially for indigenous peoples, women and girls, and the rural poor.

To do this effectively, the agenda must include:

- Recognition of water as a public good, protected as a public trust in law and practice and publically financed;
- Water resource allocation and use measured in terms of human rights and ecological sustainability criteria;
- A guarantee of effective public and local water governance;
- A moratorium on extractives in vital watershed areas and areas where water sustains Mother Earth, life and livelihoods.

Finally, linkages must also include the impact of extractive industry abuse on gender, climate change, trade, human rights, environmental protection, governance, chemicals and waste.

## **Focus Area 7: Energy**

Response by Children and Youth Major Groups and Women's Major Group

Access to safe and environmentally-friendly energy is central to sustainable development and reduction of poverty. For any development goal to be met universally, issues of sustainable energy, access and energy use must be fully addressed and comprehensively be adopted, we therefore support the inclusion of both stand alone and cross cutting goals and targets in the SDGs.

However, the focus area 7 does not sufficiently address the existing drawbacks of unjust and unsustainable energy systems which harm the environment, climate, communities, and especially women. There seems to be a deliberate absence of addressing the aspects of long term damage to the climate, the great and unsolved costs of radioactive waste and pollution, the health damage from coal fired power plants, and lately the water pollution by shale gas fracking. Clearly, the SDGs need to set targets:

- End destructive energy projects and phase out existing destructive energy sources
- Removing direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies, especially in developed nations, as well as the direct and indirect financial support for nuclear energy (700-900 billion per year, uninsured for accident, no clean up of uranium mining areas).
  - Removing perverse incentives to false solutions to climate change (e.g. carbon offsets, large-scale monoculture tree plantations for biofuel production, large-scale wood-based bioenergy, large hydropower)
  - Redirecting direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies to further developing technology for renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and marine energy, and energy efficiency;

We are also disappointed with the fact that there is no reference to a public financing model that will make sure that nations achieve energy sovereignty, for energy supply that is accessible, reliable, affordable, environmentally friendly and efficient. Clearly the SDGs need to set targets:

- to increase energy efficiency strongly in the period of the SDGs

Efficiency alone is not enough, and SDGs need to set targets:

- for absolute caps to reduce (over-)consumption, especially in Northern countries, so as to halt the current trend where increasing energy demand in the global North is provided by socially and environmentally questionable energy sources in the global South, for instance, large-scale wood-based bioenergy[1]).

Energy links with all the issues that affect the world, social, economic, political, cultural and environmental -- including ecosystems, livelihoods, access to water, agricultural productivity, health, population levels, education, and gender-related issues. None of any development policy

can be met without major improvements in the quality of and access to energy services both in developed and developing countries.

Through an integrated development approach, The Post 2015 process must ensure developing countries have the affinity to expand with access to reliable and modern sources of energy in order to reduce poverty and to improve the health of their citizens, while at the same time promoting sustainable development and tackling climate change. Investing in clean, efficient, affordable and reliable energy systems is indispensable for a prosperous, environmentally sustainable future. Ensuring energy security will require diversification of types and sources of energy, with increasing focus on consumer needs, on indigenous energy supplies, energy efficiency and regional interconnections.

Special attention needs to be paid on what is being offered as 'modern' sources of energy since experiences from nuclear energy have shown that these can result even more detrimental. We thus resort to the use of the precautionary principle in any new type of 'modern' energy that is being offered as an alternative.

Thus, we recommend that energy related goals should explicitly exclude inefficient approaches to climate change mitigation that have proven to be inequitable, ineffective, dangerous and otherwise unsustainable. As well as fiscal measures like carbon trading, and carbon tax, large-scale bioenergy production, large hydro dams, forest carbon offsets, geo-engineering and nuclear energy, whether directly or indirectly, and cannot be applied without a clear understanding of their overall social, economic and ecological impacts, and if there is any doubt, long-agreed Agenda 21 principles including the precautionary principle must apply, also fossil fuels, nuclear, industrial wood-based bioenergy and biofuels should not be subsidized.

What are needed are energy policies and strategies that:

- Are based on the principle of energy sovereignty; we need community organizing for reducing extreme energy, which requires building Local Living Economies. The "local living economies" model for communities centers on:
- Zero Waste
- 'Smart' Public Transportation
- Clean Community Energy
- Regional Food & Water Systems
- Efficient, Affordable, Durable Housing
- Ecosystem Restoration & Stewardship

We reiterate our priorities for:

- Incentivising development of efficient, low carbon, renewable, and clean energy infrastructure;
- Establishing a just energy transition program that promotes community-based decentralized renewable energy systems and transitions energy workers to decent employment paying living wages;
- Rely on decentralised and democratically controlled energy generation and use;
- Result in more equitable access to energy which means meeting everybody's fundamental energy needs while reducing excessive energy consumption at the same time;
- Protect the climate, ecosystems, and communities', including women's livelihoods and rights.

Finally, a transformative Post 215 agenda must address this power imbalance – of the continuing corporate influence/control in the way the world produces, distributes, consumes energy at the expense of the people and the planet.

[1] See for example <http://biofuelwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Chain-of-Destruction-online.pdf> and/

## **Focus Area 8 & 9: Economic Growth & Industrialization**

Prepared consultatively by: Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Local Authorities

Economic growth and economic empowerment encompass a wide range of issues that are important in achieving the SDGs, including enterprise creation, job growth and the role of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs), gender equality and women's empowerment, youth and education. Building on a strong domestic foundation of enabling frameworks and good governance, countries should pursue economic growth and economic empowerment and leverage opportunities in the international market place.

While it is true that growth does not guarantee development, there can be no economic development without sustained and inclusive economic growth as the core of sustainable development, providing equality of opportunity for all. The necessary pre-condition to economic growth is economic empowerment: citizens must have legal identity, the right to own land, democracy, the rule of law, the protection of property rights, effective anti-corruption policies, independent courts, free speech, individual liberty, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from arbitrary government action. In order to create this environment, local governance and local accountable institutions will be key. Furthermore it is critical to take the informal sector to the formal, and in so doing, make additional resources available to governments, entrepreneurs and to society as a whole.

Promoting responsible entrepreneurship and developing inclusive business models that incorporate low-income populations into the supply, production, distribution, and/or marketing networks, developing countries can increase access to goods, services, and create new sources of income for low-income communities. Responsible, long-term oriented entrepreneurship is the driving force for sustainable economic development and for providing the managerial, technical and financial resources needed to meet social and environmental challenges.

Small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) serve as channels for integrating impoverished segments of the population into the marketplace. Given their local involvement and ties, SMEs are essential in implementing concrete solutions to local social innovations. Dialogue and collaborations should include SMEs and consider how they can leverage growing market share by introducing their innovations in the value chain.

Women's entrepreneurship constitutes an important untapped source of economic growth. While there is considerable evidence of success in the integration of women in society, the issue of the economic empowerment of women remains critical and much more needs to be done. Gender equality is not only a human rights, or a legal and regulatory issue, it is also an economic issue.

As the majority of poor people now reside in middle income countries, the Post-2015 Development Agenda will have to address not only national but also local issues, including the consequence of a rapidly growing urbanization such as slum development. We would also like to emphasize that the 21st century is the century of urbanization. Urban areas - and regions as a whole - have to become more resource efficient. Beyond that, cities have plenty of potential to become more productive systems. Energy, water, food and materials increasingly are and can still be further produced and reused within urban areas. Today, approximately 50% of the world's population is under 27 years old and living in urban areas. The youth is an invaluable resource for development and is critical to the transformation of the global social, economic and political landscape. Policy, regulatory and legal structures that promote investment, foster entrepreneurship and stimulate innovation are critical to ensure the success of young entrepreneurs.

With an expected rise in global population from 6.5 to 8 billion, a 50% increase in energy demand and a doubling of economic output in the next 25 years, it is critically important to marshal the necessary technological resources to address sustainability challenges and increase the pace of technological innovation, cooperation and dissemination required for the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

The technology challenge is not limited to "hardware," but should be understood to include the related management systems and the know-how and expertise to operate industrial activities in the most energy efficient way. The provision of services, skills and associated technologies to operate and maintain new technologies is essential to ensure their long term sustainability.

The availability of economically feasible options to address global challenges – including health, the environment, and food security – will depend on the development, commercialization and widespread dissemination of effective existing technologies and new, currently non-commercial technologies. The private sector has been, and will continue to be, responsible for the vast majority of innovation, investments and the development and diffusion of new and improved technologies that will be essential to meet these challenges. However, business does not do this in isolation and forms partnerships with governments, academic and other science/research organizations to leverage resources and benefits.

As new technology projects move from research and development towards commercialization, investments to bear the scaled-up risks are often lacking. The challenge is to recognize when such technologies have the potential to become commercial after overcoming startup barriers, and when they are in fact not viable. National circumstances where the investment is to take place are a critical factor, as are infrastructure, regulatory frameworks and permitting requirements and investment incentives. Much of this R&D is long-term in nature and therefore requires a collaborative approach. A basket of policy options which address the various stages of technology maturities as well as national circumstances will have to be developed. Business supports global initiatives where public and private sector participants jointly fund and guide the research.

Collaboration between business, local authorities, science and technological community, government and other stakeholders, especially through public-private partnerships, has succeeded in furthering the objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Ultimately, success will depend on the willingness and capacity of governments to create and implement the appropriate policy frameworks, and to pursue partnerships with business and other stakeholder groups.

## **Focus Area 10: Infrastructure**

*Presentation made by SLoCat – Transportation (other stakeholder)*

Objectives of post 2015 development agenda (poverty reduction, sustainable prosperity, etc.) will require strengthening of infrastructure, especially in the global south. It is counterproductive to consider building infrastructure without considering the access it actually provides. Building roads does not automatically create access as is demonstrated by the example of Nairobi, Kenya where there has been considerable road construction but where 50% of the trips are still being made on foot. Similarly building rural roads without providing transport services will not help the rural poor.

The development of infrastructure, in support of economic development, such as building of roads cannot be decoupled from the need to strengthen social (think road safety) sustainability and environmental (think air pollution and GHG emissions) sustainability. The current language of the infrastructure focus area does not ensure this. In addition to the negative impacts it is also important to consider the negative impact of existing infrastructure.

The majority of infrastructure provisions mentioned in the infrastructure focus areas are also mentioned in other focus areas, or could easily be included in other focus areas. This applies to energy, water and sanitation and as we see it also for transport. So, rather than fixing the language of the infrastructure section which in its current shape does not adequately reflect sustainability concerns we should consider the possibility to just scrap it. This also considering the desire to reduce the number of focus areas to a smaller number.

Since other main hard infrastructure sectors have their own focus area: energy and water & sanitation it is important to ensure that transport, which does not have its own focus area is adequately covered in other focus areas. This is the case with the exception of rural transport which should be integrated in the Food Security focus.

## **Focus Area 11: Employment and Decent work for all**

Today, I speak on behalf of the Children and Youth, Women and Workers and Trade Unions Major Groups and the Campaign for People's Goals to share our feedback, concerns and ideas with respect to Focus Area 11: Employment and Decent Work for All.

We see it as a very positive signal that Employment and especially Decent Work are included as one of the focus areas and we believe every effort should be made to ensure that the issue, remain a distinct priority, as a stand-alone goal.

However, we miss any attempt to try to understand and appreciate the structural shortcomings of the current development model, which has actually contributed to unemployment and inequality, and as a result we miss any attempt to imagine genuinely transformative alternatives. References to wage growth aligned to productivity growth are not complemented by recognition of the enormously diminished share of labor income compared to capital and the international and gendered division of labor; or the counter-productive implications of austerity measures; or global systemic issues that undermine industrialization and job-creation in developing countries.

Similarly, we are concerned that one of the only mentions of young people is in relation to this focus area. We caution against a framing which views young people and women as commodities or economic investments, and instead call for one that commits to upholding their rights to health, education, decent work, and meaningful participation without qualification.

Social protection is severely underplayed in this focus area and across focus areas in general. At this stage it confirms our fear that without a dedicated commitment or focus to Universal Social Protection, the issue would be lost in a thicket of many cross-cutting issues. We therefore stand by our belief that social protection for all persons should be included as a goal in and of itself, realized through social protection floors, and references to it across many focus areas be strengthened. It should not be confined to “those retired from the labor force, persons with disabilities and older persons”. Social protection should include non-contributory schemes that acknowledge the burden of women’s unpaid care work and promote access to quality health care (including sexual and reproductive health and right services), care services, education, housing, water, etc. Through the creation of social protection floors governments have a concrete policy measure to effectively eradicate poverty and address inequality.

Decent work needs be fully articulated in all its dimensions and that priorities be organized under the four strategic pillars--creating jobs, social protection, rights at work and the social dialogue. Decent Work as a concept is established and agreed at intergovernmental level and we want to avoid reverting to an exercise where we try to re-define this concept.

In addition to those priorities already identified under the focus area the following should also be expressly addressed:

- Rights of ALL workers, though especially migrant workers, should be respected in compliance with ILOs Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work including the eight associated conventions (87, 98, 29, 105, 138, 182, 100, 111)
- The role of labor market institutions promoting: --minimum living wage, collective bargaining and the social dialogue in order to tackle gender, age and race labor market segregation and discrimination.
- A global agreement on what constitutes a minimum living wage including associated targets is essential
- Extending decent work provisions to informal and vulnerable work, as well as the working poor
- The right to education, skills development and lifelong learning are fundamental for achieving decent work and not only for displaced workers.
- Eliminating gender disparities in all sectors and at all levels of the workforce and implement and enforce policies that address discrimination of women in the labor market, including equal access to a range of educational and employment opportunities, with equal pay, equal redistribution of paid and unpaid care work through the universalization of care services, the promotion of balanced work-family policies including maternity, paternity and parental leave benefits.
- Gender equality in the workplace with respect to wages must be addressed through "equal Pay for work of equal value" including the need to re-value the lowest paid work like domestic work taking into account in particular ILO Convention 189.

- Recognizing domestic work and care work as work and as a result appropriately valuing and redistributing unpaid care work through the universal access to care services, quality health (including sexual and reproductive health and right services), housing, water, transport and energy.
- Extend concept of social security to include income security for ALL including the unemployed, those in informal and/or precarious work, the working poor, the marginalized, the young, the ageing, the disabled and those in vulnerable situations
- Creating alternative income generating activities for communities to prevent child labor
- The link between employment and the different issues related to the environmental pillar need to be strengthened as we know for example adequate investments to achieve a low carbon future has the potential to create millions of decent and green jobs.

### **Focus Area 12: Promoting Equality**

This statement has been built with the contributions of children and youth and the NGO Major group, the women's major group and other major groups and stakeholders.

#### Importance of equality and Fighting Inequality

Civil society strongly welcomes the inclusion of a focus area on promoting equality. Development will never be human, sustainable or even efficient if it doesn't make social justice and reducing inequality between and within countries as its core themes. We have repeatedly stated that reducing inequalities within and between countries, and actively promoting equality and non-discrimination must be one of the overarching goals of the post 2015 framework as a whole. Its goals and targets must be formulated with promoting equality as its priority purpose, and we will give today some examples on how this can be done.

Addressing inequalities requires political will and leadership and a conscious decision to direct resources, services and power to those who have most difficulty in accessing them.

Furthermore, closing the gap between rich and poor, requires also focussing on extreme wealth reduction, and all root causes that makes the gap bigger for example through redistributive justice and progressive taxation policies.

Today we will briefly offer you some suggestions to ensure that the framework truly promotes equality.

#### Data

In order to ensure that the post-2015 agenda properly addresses inequalities, progress needs to be measured through data disaggregation. This disaggregation must be made by income quintiles, disability, age, gender, ethnic and religious group and many other situations faced by the most at risk and marginalized, determined also taking into account national contexts. Member states should only be granted "success" when targets are reached for all these groups.

In order to address this and other qualitative elements of living in poverty, member states should make an effort to measure them. The use of qualitative and subjective data when measuring progress will make this endeavor all the more possible.

#### Participation

The most vulnerable and marginalized must be included in the decision making process and the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of the framework and its results. The framework must ensure that the information and processes derived from it are accessible and understood by all groups including provision of information in minority languages, adaptation to different levels of education and age and provision of alternative formats required by persons with disabilities...

#### Crosscutting suggestions

On the areas of the framework that could strongly be used to reduce inequalities we would highlight only two today:

1) We strongly welcome the mention of social protection floors as a tool “to reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, including children, youth, women and other marginalized groups.” Nevertheless, Social protection is not only a way to reduce the vulnerabilities of the poor as the text states, but it is the best tool to reduce inequalities and level up the playing field for those that experience poverty, marginalization and unequal access to services and natural resources. Specific social protection measures must target the most vulnerable and at risk groups. For example, truly comprehensive social protection and efforts to reduce inequalities would include targets on children for their early ages to ensure that their needs independently from their gender, disability or parental situation are covered. We recommend as well that this social protection targets establish mechanisms to support marginalized young people transition into adulthood.

2) Any goal on employment must be formulated with targets and indicators that have reducing inequality and empowering the most marginalized people as one of its main objectives. In particular it must address all existing inequalities and marginalization in the labor market, for example equal pay for equal work, laws and policy to protect both formal and informal economy workers, employment policies that target groups with difficulties to access their first job, to ensure compliance with anti-discrimination and minimum wage legislation and giving visibility to the unpaid care work carried out by women.

Finally we welcome the mention to eliminating discrimination in laws, policies and social practices, and would like to see that the framework itself does not leave anybody behind and specifically recognizes the most marginalized and their specific needs. Actively preventing political and social stigma and violence against the most marginalized must be actively pursued as discrimination is one of the main reasons as well as consequences of the inequality gap.

#### **Focus Area 13: Sustainable cities and Human settlements**

We welcome the inclusion of a focus area on sustainable cities and human settlements for cities represent both the greatest challenge and the greatest hope for a sustainable future.

Cities and regions offer the greatest opportunities for advancing economic, social and environmental well-being. The density and innovative capacity of cities provide a unique opportunity to stimulate more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Effective and participatory governance at all levels can harness the agglomeration advantages of cities. Sustainable urban development policies can contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty, stimulate economic development boost urban creativity, culture and diversity, make public services more accessible, increase social inclusion, promote gender equality, boost civic participation, limit urban sprawl, enhance

sustainable consumption and production, and reduce degradation of ecosystems, disaster risks and greenhouse gas emissions.

Cities will be able to meet all these challenges through coordination, interconnection, policy coherence and integrated territorial approaches at the subnational level. A multi-level approach, based on territories, is a unique enabler to achieving SDGs in all human settlements, and above all to address linking flows among cities, peri-urban, rural and natural areas.

In defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we urge SDGs OWG members to build on the lessons and achievements of the MDGs, and to capitalize on the megatrend of urbanization in order to halt growing inequality and longstanding poverty through intervening at the city-region scale via an Urban SDG.

As clearly demonstrated during Session 7 of the OWG, there is broad political support, including a majority of Member States and all Major Groups, a detailed vision, and robust technical capacity that can contribute to delivering the Sustainable Development Agenda from the bottom up.

An urban SDG should essentially seek to be

- “Transformative and Integrative”: this SDG must be led by a multi sector approach, linking urban and rural land use including informal settlement with the provision of basic services such as energy, water, with resilience, with mobility and opportunities for employment ,
- “Prioritizing, Enabling and Innovating” in particular the exercise of urban planning as ongoing unplanned, uncontrolled urban development has to be halted.
- “Progressively Measurable as part of Visioning the Future”: this SDG will need essential criteria to measure progress and indicators not for the sake of the indicators themselves but rather to allow a local engagement through participatory dialogues “for the progress”.
- An urban SDG must build upon the participatory approach that was agreed in 1992 and based Local Agenda 21 planning or similarly local participatory planning processes and sustainable development strategies. It is difficult to embrace an urban SDG if its implementation does not involve multilevel and multi-stakeholder participation on visioning our global future.

The goal should promote socially inclusive, economically productive and environmentally sustainable and resilient cities and territories, with participative, efficient and accountable city governance to support equitable urban development.

1) Poverty reduction and equality in urban areas: end extreme urban poverty and universalize access to basic services so that these reach vulnerable urban populations, including indigenous peoples and those living in slums and informal settlements which are also expected to increase due to environmental risks. Poverty lines should take account both food needs and the costs of non-food basic needs (e.g. housing and adequate access to essential services). Food security for all requires that poverty lines are adjusted within countries to reflect differences in the costs of food and other basic needs. Reducing inequalities requires equal right to assets, particularly equal rights for all in land tenure, as well as respecting indigenous peoples’ territorial rights.

2) More socially inclusive economic growth: support local economic development as a process that brings together partners to harness local resources for sustainable and equitable economic development; expand urban employment, particularly for young people and female heads of households, encourage higher productivity by integrating the informal sector and marginalized

urban areas; ensure access to the urban services that support employment generation (i.e. transport, housing and electricity) and invest in the urban green economy, urban regeneration, culture and heritage.

3) Sustainable and healthy urban environment: ensure a decent life for all within the planetary boundaries, reduce urban pollution and achieve marked reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption (including improved management of buildings, transport, waste and wastewater management and wider use of clean fuels and renewable energy; buildings and transport management); and develop robust urban climate change and disaster resilience plans integrated into national climate adaptation and mitigation plans.

4) Urban management and governance: sustainable development cannot be achieved without strong, accountable, capable and adequately resourced local governments and citizen participation. A wider concept of public governance, supported by reinforced territorial approach and cooperation between different municipalities and levels of government to develop more integrated urban policies (multilevel governance) and public participation in decision-making processes (multi-stakeholder approach), is an essential component of stronger local institutions. Local government development cooperation and peer-to-peer exchanges among local governments should be used as tools to develop stronger local institutions.

### Conclusion

We strongly believe that the growing reality of an “Urban World” in the 21st century dictates the necessity of an Urban SDG. We urge members of the UN SDGs OWG and other policymakers to seize this opportunity through the SDGs by adopting an Urban SDG as well as reflecting territorial targets in other relevant SDGs. The adoption of such a goal will demonstrate the integrating and interlinking role cities and regions play, their importance in global resource footprints, and their key contributions in achieving long-term sustainability for all by translating broad global goals into concrete real-world implementation efforts. Moreover, an Urban SDG will send a strong political signal and provide a solid policy framework to enable and empower action by all levels of government, in strong collaboration with civil society, indigenous peoples, the scientific community, the private sector, and the philanthropic world.

It is expected that a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanisation would promote socially inclusive, economically productive and environmentally sustainable and resilient cities and territories, with participative, efficient and accountable city governance to support equitable urban development, respecting indigenous peoples territorial rights. Through poverty reduction and equality in urban areas, more socially inclusive economic growth, sustainable and healthy urban environment, urban management and participatory governance, an urban SDG should essentially seek to be:

- “Transformative and Integrative”: this SDG must be led by a multi sector approach, linking urban and rural land use including informal settlement with the provision of basic services.
- “Prioritizing, Enabling and Innovating” in particular the exercise of urban planning as ongoing unplanned, uncontrolled urban development has to be halted.
- “Progressively Measurable as part of Visioning the Future”: this SDG will need essential criteria to measure progress and indicators not for the sake of the indicators themselves but rather to allow a local engagement through participatory dialogues “for the progress”.
- Build upon the participatory approach that was agreed in 1992 and based on Local Agenda 21 planning or similar local participatory processes and sustainable development strategies.

## Focus Area 14: Sustainable Consumption and Production

I am making this brief statement on behalf of the Major Groups for Children and Youth, Women and NGOs. The statement is based upon a joint full response to the paper of focus areas, which can be found on the sustainable development knowledge platform.

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The world is currently 'doubly unsustainable' - we are not ensuring good lives for those living today and at the same time, some of us are consuming in ways and amounts that are not sustainable and accordingly jeopardize the lives of future generations and people from the global south. Achieving Sustainable Development is tied to our capacity of delivering products and services to fulfill those needs, producing them in a sustainable way. Therefore, sustainable consumption and production- or SCP- is essentially about poverty eradication now and for future generations.

SCP is not only important for the developed countries as highlighted in the paper on focus areas, but also for the developing countries, and especially for the BRICS. People in urban areas in China, India and Brazil, experience every day the high levels of air pollution, health problems, indecent labour conditions and environmental degradation caused by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

We would also like to emphasize that to monitor sustainable development on all levels, policies should be based upon the concepts of planetary boundaries and ecological footprint.

We are therefore suggesting the following points- which are among others that can be found in our co-chairs response text available online:

- Firstly, environmental consequences of government and business policies should be done based on environmental and social impact assessments, to ensure decision makers are fully taking into consideration long-term environmental consequences.
- Secondly, SCP will remain only a concept unless we implement caps on resource extraction and bio diversity liquidation within the bio physical limits of the planet, as part of appropriate caps of energy and resource use, which leaves room for rights based allocations also.
- Thirdly, Ecological tax reform that shifts the collection base to the extraction and exploitation of natural resources- instead of taxing the upcycled added value- will form a part of the solution.
- All production needs to ensure good working conditions and respecting human rights for workers engaged, including living wages.
- Finally, education for sustainable development should include the understanding of ecosystems and the responsibilities involved in our actions. It requires both transforming to sustainable lifestyles, as the co-chairs have highlighted, but also a broader concept of educating citizens that are taking responsibility politically.

How SCP is included in the agenda will be crucial and we urge you to be bold for the sake of our common future. Preference has to be given to collective interest and not to the corporate or private ones.

## **Focus Area 15 & 16 Climate Marine Resources, Oceans and Seas**

I am speaking on behalf of the Major Groups of women, Indigenous peoples, youth and NGOs.

The Major groups affirm State and non-state recognition at this OWG9 meeting and prior, on the need for restoration, conservation and sustainable use of oceanic and marine resources, due to provision of economic, social benefits and ecosystem services to humankind. To that we add the need for explicit focus on restoration and repair of already severely damaged areas of marine ecosystems. However, this is not enough.

Calling explicitly for a stronger ecosphere approach to oceans and seas, and standalone goals on Oceans and also on Climate Change, due to the degree of globalised importance and level of current loss and damage. Recalling that Oceans and seas are not only specifically important to SIDS, many LDCs and coastal states, but affecting all states. Oceans and seas drive our global atmospheric, water cycle systems and even the snow belts in the Himalayas. They have an influence on the already-threatened glacial systems of our planet. As one expert put it at OWG8, if we like breathing (and I would add drinking and eating), then we all need to urgently protect oceans and seas.

Therefore, we also specifically reiterate as follows:

- **Equal attention to urgent action and slow-onset targets on climate change, DRR and oceans**

Inclusion of attention to global sea level rise, ocean acidification and 'dead zones', eutrophication and nuclear radiation; strongest monitoring of POPs, toxins, and plastics; effects and responses to natural disasters; over-exploitation, including overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and already destroyed ecosystems. In order to build sustainability, the SDGs should emphasize long-agreed Agenda 21 commitments including technology sharing, and production and dissemination of knowledge products and best practices, along with integration of all SD, CC and DRR plans, with equal attention to urgent and slow-onset oceanic issues. Also strongest coherence between SDGs, P2015DA and the UNFCCC processes;

- **Biosphere and integrated ecosystem approach to land-ocean management**

The new sustainable development framework should place most stringent regulations on land-based activities, also based on their impact on oceans and seas. As well as regulations on land including attention to sustainable and safe cities and subsidization of renewable safe industrial materials; Marine protected Areas or MAPS must also be instituted strongly and securely, with timed targets on size and strongest protection in line with UNHR, CEDAW, ICPD, COB, UNDRIP and other human rights normative agreements. They must not just protect biodiversity hotspots, but also reflect connectedness to the whole ocean system, and importance to local communities including indigenous people. One cannot protect a significant area, and also institute deep sea mining, overfish and take illegal catches, or otherwise pollute and harm marine ecosystems for supposed economic gain. Environmental and social costs are not externalities. Otherwise as many have stated through the OWGs, it is not really an economic gain at all.

- **Sustainable and just marine economic activities**

Given that approximately half of all international tourists travel to SIDS and coastal areas and much of these countries heavily rely on the tourism industry, more stringent regulations should be enforced in order to address unsustainable and destructive tourism. Tourism, as with all economic

activities, must be designed and monitored in accordance with human rights normative agreements, as above and with specific attention to gender equality and women's and children's human rights, rights of indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, and other at-risk and marginalised groups. There is also a need for National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), including national biodiversity inventories, as 1 in 4 fish species depend on the disappearing coral reef ecosystems, upon which many poor citizens depend for survival. This is also good for tourism. Relatedly, one cannot sustain pristine areas for tourism, and also pursue heavily resource-oriented activities such as mining, etc. There is a need for greater congruence and consistency, with urgent moves from extractive economic activities to those built on the long-term strength and health of oceans and seas;

- **Surveillance and Enforcement of Laws of Maritime Crime and Terrorism**

The new sustainable development framework must include strengthening of UNCLOS and ISA in line with Agenda 21 and human rights principles, as part of global efforts to strengthen the unfinished business of MDG8, on effective and just global governance systems. Also recognition of Maestricht Principles on Extraterritoriality, and greater resources for recognition and implementation of multilateral global maritime governance, including in territorial waters and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The Major Groups call for strongest attention to these globally important sustainable development issues and priorities, and welcome member states' widespread support.

**Focus Area 17: Ecosystems and Biodiversity**

I am speaking on behalf of a cluster consisting of the major groups of Indigenous Peoples, Women and NGOs.

For us forests are one of the most important ecosystems on which millions of forest dwelling people depend, many of them indigenous women, men and hunter gathers scatters in different regions around the Globe. We therefore appreciate the fact that you recognize Indigenous peoples vital role on sustainable development and much welcome your proposal for an integrated goal on ecosystems conservation that includes forests, land-use, and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' role, on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing.

We disagree with some Member States who want to take forests out of this focus area, and want to see forest purely as a monetary value and a random collection of trees rather than, as ecosystems which sustain livelihoods, for many indigenous peoples, women, and their local communities, but also as the freshwater providers for many of the mega cities in this world.

Let me give 3 proposals for improvement of this focus area:

1) In addition to a stand-alone goal, and in order to halt biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, we must promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the development agenda and keep reminding ourselves that biodiversity is not a problem to be solved, but rather an opportunity to help achieve our social and economic goals.

2) This Goal area should specifically mention Indigenous territories and Community Conserved Areas (ITCCA) as these area-based conservation mechanisms are even more effective than protected areas,

and provide far more socio-economic and cultural benefits. We recommend you specifically set targets for ITCCA protection - as they are under great threat from extractive and infrastructure development.

3) Finally, we recommend that this area sets stronger targets for reversing the negative drivers of forest loss. 80% of forest loss due to unsustainable Agriculture including unsustainable livestock production - this includes the soy monocultures for the meat we eat every day - as well as the large-scale industrial bioenergy production - the mono-tree and other crop plantations which are market as 'green' but are devastating because of land grabbing, displacement, chemical contamination and water extraction.

### **Focus Area 18: Means of Implementation**

Remarks on behalf of the Women's Major Group, Trade Union and Workers Major Group, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Third World Network, Global Policy Forum, IBON International.

With respect to Focus Area 19 on Means of Implementation, we welcome your proposal, co-chairs, for developed countries to recommit to meet ODA targets, especially in light of the recent decline in ODA flows.

We are concerned, however, that the focus area text does not recognize that Means of Implementation must address both the mobilization of financial resources and technology, and the international architecture that determines States' ability to use those resources for sustainable development, namely the global trade and financial framework.

International financial institutions and trade policies require fundamental, structural reform. Taking the key issue of sovereign debt: The IMF and World Bank, despite some debt cancellation initiatives, continue to require a total debt service that is reportedly 5 times that of total annual ODA flows to developing countries. Ensuring long-term debt sustainability is included under "means of implementation" in the Rio+ 20 outcome document, and we therefore call for sovereign debt to be specifically addressed by the Open Working Group.

Our second principal concern is that, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document, new sources of financing such as public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation must be recognized as complementary and not a substitute for traditional means of implementation.

We caution however that private public partnerships can seem financially attractive because of accounting that hides fiscal risks and costs. These partnerships risk worsening inequality in income and access by socializing costs while privatizing benefits. Moreover, the profit-orientation of the private sector and the fact it's not required to invest in global public goods means that the public sector must be at the center of sustainable development financing.

Investment is highlighted in the focus area text as a promising additional source of financing, yet bilateral and multilateral investment treaties allow significant infringement by corporate actors on national policy space that should be protected to allow rights-based, development-oriented social and economic policies.

Third, we wish to highlight that means of implementation encompasses capacity-building and technology transfer. While the focus area text makes some mention of technology transfer, it misses

critical points from the Rio+20 outcome document, and we draw your attention particularly to paragraphs 269 to 273. We emphasize that developing countries must have equitable access to environmentally sound technologies, which may require lifting intellectual property barriers. In this regard, we refer to the work of the Technology Working Group and its recommendations pertaining to least developed countries.

Fourth, we emphasize that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities applies to means of implementation on the whole, and not just climate policy; and that the obligations of States should be commensurate with their stage of development.

Finally, we call for a standalone goal on global partnership. Effective means of implementation requires a strengthened global partnership that can create the necessary systemic change.

### **Focus Area 19: Peaceful and Non-violent Societies, Capable Institutions**

I am speaking here on behalf of the Women and Children and Youth Major Groups.

It is critical that the Post-2015 SDG agenda address root causes of violence and conflict and builds on existing commitments to promote sustainable development and peace.

First, the SDGs should strengthen investment in peace rather than current investments in violence and conflict.

We call for targets to reduce spending on militaries and armaments, eliminating stockpiles and production of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions, and demilitarizing the lands, territories, waters and oceans particularly of Indigenous Peoples.

Second, the SDGs should strengthen support for inclusive and gender equitable participation. We call for a separate focus area on governance, which includes a clear mandate and mechanisms for how civil society and marginalized groups, including children, youth, women and indigenous people, can influence government at the national and international levels.

This should include the establishment of platforms for participation and co-creation, and public access to information, in which civil society could play a role in data gathering and monitoring.

Third, we demand state and non-state actors take action to eliminate and implement protective measures against human rights abuses including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honor killings, and other harmful traditional practices, and violence committed on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We ask that the SDGs recognize the critical contribution of women's participation and rights to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Finally, the SDGs should ensure the rule of law to address impunity – particularly regarding sexual and other forms of gender-based violence. We call for strengthened accountability mechanisms at the international, regional and national levels, including for police and private military corporations, to prevent human trafficking, arms smuggling, and the proliferation of drug cartels. Mechanisms should include strategic response plans to control and prevent endemic community violence from groups such as urban gangs, vigilante organizations, and/or ethnic militias.