

**Executive Summary**  
**Major Groups Inputs**  
**Open Working Group 9 (March 3-5, 2014)**

In response to the nineteen focus areas as presented by the Co-Chairs on Sustainable Development Goals, Major Groups and other Stakeholders made both constituency and thematic based presentations during the Ninth Session of the Open Working Group. This is a summary of their inputs for consideration by the Co-Chairs. Generally Major groups and other stakeholder were pleased with the direction of the Focus Areas document but offered changes that would make it better. Readers are invited to see the complete interventions made during OWG9.

**General Themes of Constituency Statements**

- Calls for Sustainable Development Goals to be rooted in Human rights
- Need for integrating concept of common but differentiated responsibilities for the limited resources within our planetary boundaries
- Inclusion of good governance and the rule of law in the focus areas.
- Calls for rigorous, independent and effective accountability mechanisms
- Call for alternative to “pure economic growth model” to get inclusive and sustainable development

**Constituency Statements**

**Women call for the document to**

- ensure the inclusion of Women’s rights as a cross-cutting priority in the 19th focus areas
- insist on a stand-alone goal on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights and Empowerment, targeting to eliminate the 120 existing discriminatory laws against women
- not fall back on existing agreements of Rio+20, CEDAW, The Beijing Platform for Action, ICPD
- include a goal for social protection floor as first important step to address women's unpaid care work
- guarantee sexual and reproductive rights of women of all ages, halt early enforced marriage and end sexual and other gender based violence
- ensure universal free education and end the education gender gap
- guarantee the full, equal participation in decision making and peace processes and ensure women's equitable access to and control over and ownership of resources
- transform the development agenda away from a simple growth agenda towards just and sustainable structures of international finance, tax, debt-reform and trade

**Children & Youth call for**

- Incorporating Children and Youth as a critical priority area across all dimensions of the agenda in line with their needs and rights but also in the form of youth-sensitive targets and indicators
- Fulfilling and upholding existing human rights commitments, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, elimination of the worst forms of child labor, and social protection for young workers.
- Include young people in the implementation of this agenda.
- Move away from linear growth model to a model that does not perpetuate inequalities

**Indigenous Peoples call for**

- Consistency in applying the terminology “indigenous peoples” throughout the document
- Considering that monetary measure of poverty can contribute to impoverishing Indigenous Peoples
- The concept and measure of well-being should be the corner stone of SDG implementation
- Recognition of culture as an important dimension in the document

- Good governance should be a focused areas that include Free, Prior, and Inform Consent

#### **NGOs were concerned with**

- Industrialized countries mentioned specifically only in the context of SCP, universality is primordial
- The failure to recognize that current models of growth and industrialization negate basic notions of sustainability, as there is a lack of account for human and planetary boundaries.
- **AND CALL for** the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda 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.
- Accountability and governance including through a strong HLPF

#### **Local Authorities call for**

- The adoption of a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization (Urban SDG) which would:
  - 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.
  - Seize the opportunities that local and subnational governments as agents of national economic growth and as the locus of technological, social, and governance innovation.
  - Foster multi-level and -stakeholder collaboration, necessary for concomitantly managing and planning urban areas, urban-rural continuums, surrounding communities and ecosystems.

#### **Workers and Trade Unions support**

- Employment and especially Decent Work for All as a stand-alone goal recognizing and prioritizing work under the four strategic pillars of the DWA
- Commitments to Universal Social Protection through the creation and implementation of Social Protection Floors
- Ensuring fundamental principles and rights at work, functioning labor market institutions and minimum living wages to address inequality
- Free education, as part of a stand-alone goal, since tuition fees and indirect costs continue to exclude the most marginalized from quality education
- A stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, including the empowerment of women and the full realization of women’s human rights

#### **Business & Industry point that**

- Critical and over-arching pre-condition for sustainable development are:
  - Good governance and an enabling environment
  - Emerging Sources of Financing – Bond Financing and Local Currency Bond Markets
  - Critical importance of Rule of Law
- **And Recommend** consensus-building through stakeholder dialogues – notably between governments, business and civil society vital for designing and implementing effective solutions.
- Improved state-business relations contribute to a better understanding of private sector needs by the government and thus to a more efficient allocation of resources in the economy and better laws

#### **Other stakeholders: The aging people propose that**

- older persons are resources, not burdens, and need to be recognized as such

- disaggregation of data by age and other variables where appropriate
- 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.
- aging People 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)

### Thematic Statements

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

*On behalf of Beyond 2015, NGO, Women and Indigenous Peoples:* Poverty eradication must be pursued equitably and founded on human rights which would require:

- Targets to reduce inequalities across all goals and dimensions of sustainable development
- The principle of leaving no one behind for all key human development outcomes
- A focus on well-being measure rather than income alone
- Disaggregation of data, transparency, accountability and participation of all stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and monitoring
- Focus on disaster reduction
- Inequalities in higher and middle income countries must be addressed through ending extreme poverty AND through wealth accumulation
- Targets on global economic and monetary structures that accelerate inequality

People living in poverty have identified access to: quality education, and life-long training; decent work; and social protection as key to their meaningful contribution to society.

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

*On behalf of Local Authorities, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Women, and Farmers:*

- Small-holder farmers as the critical “agents of change,” have not been given the necessary prominence in the document
- The right to adequate food is not explicitly mentioned and should be included in this priority area
- Empowering smallholder farmers and other rural communities, in particular women and disadvantaged groups, is essential
- 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.
- The livestock sector must be directly addressed
- Eliminate dumping, establish food reserves, prevent land grabbing and excessive speculation

#### **Focus Area 3: Health and Population Dynamics**

*On behalf of Women and Children and Youth:* 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.

- 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).
- 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.
- Targets to end preventable infant and under 5 deaths and maternal mortality and morbidity

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

*On behalf of Children & Youth, Workers and Trade Unions, Women and Indigenous Peoples:*

- Broad priorities: education, accessibility, equity, quality and completion, the reference to the universal right to education is fundamental; including free primary & secondary education by 2030.
- Emphasis on ensuring equitable access to education for the most marginalized.
- In order to achieve quality and secure relevant student learning outcomes, emphasizes on educational inputs as well as the teaching and learning processes is needed.
- Quality education should include citizenship, human rights, sustainable development etc.
- Address the incredible gender gap through a specific target on eliminating women's illiteracy by 2030.

#### **Focus Area 5: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

*On behalf of Women, Children & Youth and NGOs:* Women's rights need to be explicit to support the progressive language on Gender Equality, women's rights and women's empowerment; including sexual and reproductive rights.

- Suggested additions:
  - Recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care & domestic work
  - Women's access to justice including the end to sexual and gender-based violence;
  - The provision of comprehensive sexuality education programs that promote respect for human rights, non-discrimination, gender equality, non-violence and peace-building;
  - Elimination of early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honor killings, child labor and trafficking of children, especially girls;
  - Guarantee the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls at all public and private spheres.
  - Women's equitable access to, control over and ownership of resources that promote fair asset redistribution among different social groups.
  - Eliminate discriminatory laws, policies 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

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

*On behalf of NGO, Women, Indigenous Peoples:*

- Address the root causes of water challenges, namely, the unjust appropriation of water resources through privatization and commodification
- Guarantee and realization of the right to water and sanitation
- Recognition of water as a public good, protected as a public trust in law and publically financed

- A moratorium on extractives in vital watershed areas
- 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**

*On behalf of Women and Children & Youth propose:*

- Access to sustainable sources of clean, reliable and affordable energy
- Redirecting direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies to further developing technology for renewable and less polluting energy sources such as wind, solar, and marine energy, and energy efficiency
- 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.

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

*On behalf of Business and Industry, Scientific & Technological Community, and Local Authorities:*

- The necessary condition to economic growth is economic empowerment, which depends on local governance and local accountable institutions with right to own land, democracy, rule of law, etc.
- 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 and services and create new sources of income
- Dialogue and collaborations with Small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) are needed as they serve as channels for integrating impoverished segments of the population into the marketplace.
- Women's entrepreneurship constitutes an important untapped source of economic growth. Gender equality is not only a human rights, or a legal and regulatory issue, it is also an economic issue.
- 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.
- Move to formal economies, partnerships with cities, and development, commercialization and dissemination of technologies with proper investment & partners are needed

### **Focus Area 10: Infrastructure**

*On behalf of SLoCat partnership:*

- The development of infrastructure in support of economic development cannot be decoupled from the need to strengthen social (think road safety) sustainability and environmental (think air pollution and GHG emissions) sustainability.
- The majority of infrastructure provisions mentioned in the infrastructure focus areas are also mentioned in other focus areas, or could be easily be included (e.g. energy, water and sanitation, transport). Rather than fixing the language which does not adequately reflect sustainability concerns, it should be eliminated.
- Two other main hard infrastructure sectors, energy and water & sanitation, have their own focus area, but transport does not and thus it should be adequately covered in other focus areas.

### **Focus Area 11: Employment and Decent Work for All**

*On behalf of Children and Youth, Women, Workers and Trade Unions, Campaign for People's Goals:*

- Decent work needs be fully articulated in all its dimensions and organized under the four strategic pillars -- creating jobs, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue.

- Rights of ALL workers, though especially migrant workers, should be respected in compliance with ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- The right to education, skills development and lifelong learning are fundamental for achieving decent work and not only for displaced workers.
- Target on agreed upon minimum living wage, recognition of domestic work and care work.
- 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 -equal pay for equal value.
- One of few mentions of young people in this focus area. No framing which views young people and women as commodities or economic investments, calling for one that commits to upholding their rights to health, education, decent work, and meaningful participation without qualification.
- Social protection floor should be included as a stand-alone goal.

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

*On behalf of Children and Youth, NGO, Women and other stakeholders:*

- Promoting equality & non-discrimination must be one overarching goal of the post 2015 framework
- Data disaggregation by income quintiles, disability, age, gender, ethnic and religious group and other situations faced by the most at risk and marginalized taking into account national contexts.
- 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.
- Welcome mention of social protection floors as a tool "to reduce vulnerabilities as also the best tool to reduce inequalities and level up the playing field for all.
- Goal on employment must have targets and indicators to reduce inequality and empowering the most marginalized people, including in the labor market.
- Targets to actively prevent political and social stigma and violence against the most marginalized are needed as discrimination is one of the main reasons as well as consequences of the inequality gap.

### **Focus Area 13: Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements**

*On behalf of Local Authorities and Indigenous Peoples:*

- 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**

*On behalf of Children and Youth, Women and NGOs:*

- Government and business policies should be based on environmental and social impact assessments, to ensure decision makers are fully taking into consideration long-term environmental consequences.

- SCP requires implementation of caps on energy, and resource and biodiversity use, within the biophysical limits of the planet, while leaving room for rights based allocations.
- Supported by an ecological tax reform that shifts collection based on extraction and exploitation of natural resources – instead of taxing the downstream added value.
- All production needs to ensure good working conditions and respect human rights for workers engaged, including living wages.
- Education for sustainable development should include the understanding of ecosystems and the responsibilities involved in our actions, focusing on shifts to sustainable lifestyles and on educating citizens to take responsibility politically.

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

*On behalf of Women, Indigenous Peoples, Children and Youth, and NGOs:*

- Calling explicitly for a stronger ecosphere approach to oceans and seas, and standalone goals on Oceans and one on Climate Change reflecting the globalised importance and loss and damage.
- Equal attention to urgent action and slow-onset targets on climate change, DRR and oceans.
- Biosphere and integrated ecosystem approach to land-ocean management (MAPS).
- Sustainable and just marine economic activities, including tourism.
- Surveillance and Enforcement of Laws of Maritime Crime and Terrorism.

#### **Focus Area 17: Ecosystems and Biodiversity**

*On behalf of Indigenous Peoples, Women and NGOs: In addition to stand alone goal we propose to*

- To promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the development agenda, not as a problem to be solved, but rather an opportunity to help achieve our social and economic goals.
- Specifically mention Indigenous territories and Community Conserved Areas as mechanisms more effective than protected areas to provide socio-economic and cultural benefits.
- Set stronger targets for reversing the negative drivers of forest loss, especially forest loss due to unsustainable agriculture and livestock production, and large-scale industrial bioenergy production.

#### **Focus Area 18: Means of Implementation (MOI)**

*On behalf of Women, Workers and Trade Unions, Third World Network, Global Policy Forum, IBON International:*

- This focus area does not recognize that MOI 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, which require fundamental, structural reform.
- Ensuring long-term debt sustainability should be included in this focus area as called for by Rio+ 20.
- Also from Rio+20, new sources of financing such as public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation should be complementary and not substitute for traditional MOI. The public sector must be at center of financing to ensure investment in public goods and prevent socialization of costs.
- This focus area makes some mention of technology transfer but misses capacity-building and critical points from Rio+20 (particularly paras 269 to 273).
- The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities applies to all MOI, not just climate policy; and the obligations of States should be commensurate with their stage of development.
- Effective MOI require a strengthened global partnership through a standalone goal on global partnership that can create the necessary systemic change.

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

*On behalf of Women and Children and Youth:*

- The SDGs should strengthen investment in peace. It should include 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.
- Should recognize the critical contribution of women's participation and rights to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- We call for a focus area on governance, with 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.
- 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.
- The SDGs should ensure the rule of law to address impunity-based violence.