



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Montenegro
to the United Nations

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Statement of Slovenia and Montenegro at the general debate of 1st session of Open Working Group on
Sustainable Development Goals

New York, 14 and 15 March 2013

Co-chairs, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the team Montenegro and Slovenia I would like to first congratulate both co-chairs upon your election. It's a great pleasure to see that sustainable development, one of the greatest global challenges we have been facing, is attracting such prominent and numerous audience.

I would like to align Montenegro and Slovenia with the statement made by the European Union.

Slovenia and Montenegro believe that dialogue on sustainable development and other global issues is an important component for building better future with keeping development within planetary boundaries. Only through a concerted and integrated global action we can be successful in overcoming the many challenges faced by the communities across the globe.

We welcome the fact that the 1st session of the Open Working Group on sustainable development goals is taking place after a long process of consultation on its composition and the organizational modalities of its work. We are looking forward to constructive and interactive debates today and at our future meetings.

Montenegro and Slovenia put great importance on sustainable development, follow-up of Rio + 20, and especially to the elaboration of global Sustainable Development Goals. It is our belief that SDGs, being universal in nature, can be flexible enough to allow the differences among the countries to be taken into account.

Members of the Open Working Group have a great responsibility with challenging mandate to prepare a proposal of concrete sustainable development goals. This process will require regular close cooperation with other Member States, Observer States, other observers, all relevant stakeholders and all levels of governance.

Slovenia and Montenegro as part of a team occupying one seat in the Open Working Group will do their utmost to constructively contribute to the successful completion of the group's mandate. We will be building our active and constructive participation especially on our national knowledge and best practices in the field of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a complex concept; many thematic and cross-cutting issues are waiting a proper response from the international community, as well as from regional, national and local levels. This was reflected in many thematic suggestions on concrete sustainable development goals that have already been presented in the past months in different foras. Many more is yet to follow.

Therefore it is very important to keep in mind the need for a balanced approach towards all three dimensions of sustainable development. We are strongly convinced that sustainable development goals should address and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and coherent manner. We also believe that sustainable development goals should be coherent with and integrated in the development agenda beyond 2015 with a view to an overarching framework for post-2015.

The Open Working Group has a challenging task of giving serious consideration to a wide range of different proposals, to follow scientific research and data, to elaborate the most appropriate characteristics of sustainable development goals and link them to concrete targets and indicators, which will allow measuring the progress of implementing them. Let me remind all of us that in the upcoming months, the set timeframe will pressure us in our endeavours to complete all these tasks in due time.

We're committed to the Open Working Group and to the process of establishing a set of sustainable development goals. We stand ready to listen to the proposals from all relevant sources and to work together with other member states of the Open Working Group in order to successfully complete the mandate that was bestowed on us by our leaders in Rio last year.

Thank you.