

Dear Mr. Co-chairs, Honorable member states, and esteemed delegates:

I am honored to present this statement on behalf of the Major Groups of NGOs, Farmers and Children & Youth. We congratulate the co-chairs on your election in this process. We also applaud the efforts of Member States and other stakeholders who acknowledge the imperative need for this process to be inclusive and transparent recognizing that stakeholders have a wealth of expertise to offer.

We hope that as the SDGs are crafted, the input of ideas and innovations from stakeholders at all levels (global, regional, national, sub-national and local) will be integrated into the process to ensure outcomes which are inclusive, empathetic and sustainable, and which have legitimacy and stakeholder buy-in.

Therefore, we call on members of the SDGs OWG to design **multi-stakeholder mechanisms** to ensure participation, transparency and accountability. The full and effective involvement of all stakeholders, is needed in order to provide a practical and useful diversity of perspectives and experience. The issues the SDGs will seek to address are complex and interlinked. Innovative and pragmatic solutions from all sectors are needed to deliver a pioneering framework which breaks through traditional barriers which are one-dimensional or lack a means of implementation.

Such multi-stakeholder initiatives will also provide a foundation to make the merging of the Post-Rio and Post-2015 agendas into a single set of global development goals a legitimate people-centered and democratic process.

Member States should encourage and provide the necessary support to facilitate the participation of Major Groups and other stakeholders in the SDGs process. Therefore we specifically call upon the Open Working Group to:

1. Work with stakeholders to define a **methodology for integrating stakeholders into the post-2015 and SDGs processes.**
2. Establish a **Multi-stakeholder Advisor Group (MAG)** to work with the intergovernmental Open Working Group.
3. Organize a coordinated event between the High Level Panel on Post-2015 and Open Working Group.
4. Organize consultations and capacity building events at all levels with emphasis on the regional and national levels.
5. Incorporate the HLP report on post-2015 into the OWG process.
6. Engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders beyond interventions from the Major Groups in future work sessions of the OWG.
7. Provide timely access to all documents and drafts under negotiation.
8. Allow Major Groups and other stakeholders to comment on the draft report, and provide comments and input on the agenda.
9. Hold regular meetings between stakeholders and the SDG OWG country representatives.
10. Create and provide expert advisory seats on any potential sub-working/thematic groups of the OWG.

Mr. Co-Chairs, to conclude, we would like to note that this statement, and indeed the attendance of stakeholders in general, could have been more representative if information on the meeting was conveyed to Major Groups further in advance. Timely access to information is a vital aspect of inclusive participation.

You have our full support in the important work ahead of us all, and we compliment the organizers of this first meeting for providing an open and mutually informative dialogue yesterday afternoon.