

GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. KEN KANDA

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AT

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

New York, 14 - 15 March, 2013

Mr. President,
Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the
United Nations,
Co-Facilitators,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable development is very important to Ghana and to the international community. The primary aim of these goals should be to reduce poverty, particularly in developing countries and to bring real and substantial development to all countries.

The goals should have the ability to enhance the assets of the poor, as well as address current global crises. The real impact of these goals will be felt if the issues that hinder the development of developing countries, particularly Africa, are addressed. Prominent among these issues are climate change, energy, trade, industrial development, full employment, global governance technology transfer, agricultural subsidies and land degradation.

The SDGs should be limited in number, measurable and easy to implement. A reasonable time frame for the achievement of the SDGs as well as a review period must be clearly indicated.

The Open Working Group (OWG) should be guided by the principles of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and consensus as well as by the principles set out in paragraph 246 and 247 of the Rio+20 outcome document.

The OWG should be guided by the experience garnered in the formulation and implementation of the MDGs. The MDGs must be enhanced to address issues of quality and incorporate important goals that were neglected. They could form the basis of the social goals of the SDGs.

To move forward with its work, the OWG may consider inviting academia, as well as experts to make presentations to the Group and for the Group to engage them thoroughly. A good understanding of the theoretical

underpinnings of sustainable development is very vital to our work. The selection of experts should have a balance between developing and developed countries.

Other stakeholders such as major groups and international organizations can also make presentations to the OWG, followed by interactive sessions. There is the need for members of the Open Working Group to be given enough time to reflect on the proposals from these non-state actors. Member states could then submit their proposals at this stage.

Mr. Chairman,

It is also relevant to have specific means of implementation attached to the goals to make them easy to relate to, as well as to measure.

It would be important to mandate the inter-agency group set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to compile current goals from international conventions, resolutions and conferences as well as the gaps in their implementation and make them available to the OWG. This will enrich discussions within the OWG and facilitate the development of the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

As there are several on-going processes geared towards a new development agenda for 2015, there is the need for convergence. We will suggest the establishment of an inter-governmental process to agree on one development agenda after 2015.

Thank you.