

Permanent Mission Of The Kingdom
Of Saudi Arabia To The United Nations
NEW YORK



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية
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**STATEMENT OF
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
AT THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE OPEN WORKING GROUP
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

Delivered by

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Saudi Arabia to the United Nations**

New York, 14 March, 2013

*Unofficial Translation
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Good Morning Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for facilitating this first session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development and the Secretary General for prioritizing this agenda. I would like to express my gratitude to the Co-facilitators, who have been dedicated in guiding the process leading to the first session of this group. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Mission of Brazil for successfully facilitating our discussions leading to the current membership.

Mr. President,

Less than a year ago, 193 member state representatives, including heads of states, ministers and world leaders came together in Rio De Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and adopted the outcome document, "The Future We Want". This document included the decision to establish an Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, whose task is to produce a report on SDGs for adoption by the General Assembly in its 68th session, ensuring an intergovernmental process.

Mr. President,

In our view, the SDG process should be open, transparent, and inclusive. As the Rio+20 document indicated, the SDGs should be comprehensive and applicable to *all* countries, while maintaining a pragmatic nature. Moreover, the three pillars of Sustainable Development: economic, social, and environmental, should be reflected, with the overarching goal of eradicating poverty remaining the priority.

In this new global landscape, partnerships are crucial to the success of Sustainable Development. We must create long-lasting partnerships that will expand the opportunity for development for all. International financing, trading and technology offer venues for cooperation and means of implementation.

During this process, we must not forget the principles of Rio and remind ourselves that not all countries are comparable in their development needs and contribution circumstances. The SDGs should thus be tailored to adequately reflect these differences. We cannot achieve proper development without catering to the reality of different national circumstances.

Mr. President,

We are given the unique opportunity to participate in an intergovernmental process that has the potential to improve the livelihoods of billions. I sincerely hope we take advantage of this opportunity to the fullest extent.

Finally Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia is proud to be a member of this Open Working Group and avails itself the opportunity to make productive contributions. We look forward to the road ahead and hope for a collaborative and successful process.

Thank you.