Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the General Assembly’s Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, we take this opportunity to thank you for the very constructive discussions we held during the eleventh (11th) session of the Group.

As indicated during the closing of the last session, we have already sent to all Permanent Missions the draft chapeau of the proposed sustainable development goals and targets for your consideration. It can also be found at the Open Working Group’s website: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3770chapeau_clean.pdf

As we promised at the close of the last session of the OWG, we are now pleased to share with you the “zero draft” of goals and targets, in preparation for the next session to be held in June. As indicated during the previous session, we have included in this draft a proposed focus area to “reduce inequality within and among countries”, bringing the total number of focus areas to 17.

We would like to reconfirm the dates of our informal consultations, from Monday to Wednesday, 9 to 11 June 2014. As explained at the end of OWG11, our intention is to use these informal-informals to take an initial sounding of delegations’ views on the zero draft. During the informal consultations, Member States will have an opportunity to consult on the proposed goals, their targets and means of implementation contained in the zero draft.

Member States are reminded that the OWG process has only 10 days of formal work remaining. It is therefore crucial that delegations come prepared with concise and final language that will facilitate timely agreement of both goals and targets. It will be particularly important that we limit the amount of text and the size of the document particularly with regard to the number of targets.

We would also like to reiterate our intention to continue employing the agreed methods of work in the remainder of our formal sessions. As stated at OWG11, we would strongly request that delegations move directly into focused consideration of the proposed goals and targets contained in the zero draft in order to make progress towards a successful and timely conclusion of the report for onward submission to the General Assembly for appropriate action.

We would like to reiterate the importance of enumerating sustainable development goals in accordance with para 247 of the Río+20 outcome document which, inter alia, states that the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mr. Macharia Kamau
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

Mr. Csaba Körösi
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations

Permanent Representatives of Member States
to the United Nations, New York
(listed in Annex to General Assembly decision 67/555)

cc: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York