

## Questionnaire

*The Rio outcome document states that the SDGs should be limited in number, and at the same time focus on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development.*

**1. Please list a limited number, preferably between five and ten, of the important priority areas that must be addressed through the SDGs to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.**

Croatia firmly believes in transformative power of global goals that should coherently incorporate economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The vision of global development as given in the Millennium Declaration was intended to unify pursuance of economic, social and environmental objectives along with ensuring peace, security and respect for democratic values. There are three principles that constitute common elements, necessary to address the global trends and challenges, thus leading to transformative change: human rights, equality and sustainability.

In the coming years the progress will be needed in social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic growth and peace and security.

Meeting the imperatives of peace and security is most urgent for highly vulnerable populations, including women and girls, children as well as other socially excluded groups. We consider important prevention of conflicts and ensuring security based on solidarity but also on effective systems of justice. Strengthening cultures of peace and tolerance and building state capacities to ensure peace and security is essential in all countries and particularly pressing in fragile states. Governance must be based on the rule of law, including compliance with the international laws and principles of inclusion and participation as reinforcing elements of sustainable development.

**2. How might the SDGs strive to balance the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development?**

- a. Reflect social, economic and environmental dimensions within each SDG, possibly through the associated targets**
- b. Integrate the MDGs, suitably modified/updated for post-2015, into a larger sustainable development framework**
- c. Expand MDG 7 ('environmental sustainability') into a number of goals with a natural/environmental resource dimension (water, food, energy, etc.)**
- d. Other (please describe)**

Continuing the current patterns of economic growth will exacerbate inequalities, social trends and pressures on the world's resources and natural environment, therefore the SDGs reflecting the economic, social and environmental dimension would make a way for a new development path that encourages creativity and innovation in pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and development.

**3. Based on your experience with MDGs or other existing goals, what would be the key use of SDGs for your country (select at most two)?**

- a. Defining national policies**
- b. Influencing national budget allocations**
- c. Reviewing the impact of national policies**
- d. Addressing key pressure leading to unsustainability**
- e. Helping to balance economic, social and environmental pillars in policy making**
- f. Guiding development cooperation**
- g. Other (please describe)**

**Please explain your choices if you would like:**

Policy implementation is the best way to achieve the strategic goals therefore the key use of SDGs could be reviewing the impact of national policies and helping to balance economic, social and

environmental pillars in policy making. During the preparatory and implementation phases there are opportunities to align the strategic goals and concrete policy measures. Reviewing the impact of national policies is a necessary condition for monitoring progress in meeting the goals.

**4. How can “universally applicable” SDGs be made practically relevant for countries at different levels of development? (Please refer to your country’s situation as appropriate.)**

Having in mind that development processes are context specific, depending on circumstances and characteristics of each respective country, global goals need to have their country-specific implications and targets, with the necessary flexibility to consider diversity within the countries. Economic, social and environmental pillars could serve as a foundation for prospective and extensive country development. Following the transition experiences of Croatia, special attention should be given to particular circumstances of fragile states and states in transition.

**5. The SDGs are supposed to be “global in nature”. Should targets associated with those goals be:**

- a. common to all countries?**
- b. defined by each country? or**
- c. common but differentiated depending on country characteristics and level of development? If c., please explain how.**

It is by thinking globally and acting locally that we can translate global goals into local implementation patterns based on country-specific circumstances.

**6. Which existing goals and targets (e.g., MDGs, goals/targets in Agenda 21, JPOI) do you think *should* be incorporated – perhaps in updated form – in a proposal for sustainable development goals?**

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**7. What specific steps can be taken to ensure that the SDGs are coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015?**

Defining common methods and assessment tools for evaluation of results, outcomes, indicators and impact assessment of the goals/targets is a way towards SDGs coherent with and integrated into Post-2015 development agenda, through broad and inclusive consultation processes.

**8. How should assessments of progress toward the achievement of the SDGs be carried out at the global level?**

Performance can be measured by targets that should be set in a way to measure the prevailing inequalities and sustainability aspects, which together with qualitative indicators and more available data would be critical to monitor both the degree to which development progress is inclusive and sustainable. Such indicators and data will facilitate better assessment of policy effectiveness and contribute to strengthening accountability by regular self-assessment and reporting.

**9. What measures should be taken to make the process of developing a proposal for SDGs inclusive and participatory? How should civil society and other relevant stakeholders be engaged?**

Participation of civil society in decision making processes should be the basic guiding principle for policy-making and policy implementation. It is only the open and inclusive policy making that can lead to irreversible reforms in environmental, economic and social areas of sustainable development at global, national and local levels. The enabling environment for civil society and citizen engagement can be defined as a set of interrelated conditions (legal, fiscal, institutional, informational, political, cultural, etc.) that cultivates the growth of civil society and strengthens its capacity to participate in public policy shaping and implementation. Ensuring conditions for strengthening and capacity-building of civil society together with their continuous and active participation in decision making processes should be the path towards achieving sustainable development goals.

**10. What principles should underpin the development of the SDGs? (the UN TT report, for example, recommended adding (i) reducing inequalities and (ii) promoting human rights (iii) ensuring sustainability);**

Three fundamental principles that should underpin the development of the SDGs are: reduction of inequalities in all societies as a part of the vision of inclusive development; human rights embedded in the UN Charter and the range of human rights conventions and treaties that are based on fundamental values, peace and security; and sustainability as a fundamental principle for all aspects of development for all societies.

**11. How should a new Global Partnership for Development be constructed within or around the SDGs?**

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**12. Do you have any other observations, ideas or inputs you would like to offer to inform the initial work of the open working group on sustainable development goals?**

We consider the OWG SDGs timely report for the 68<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly a prerequisite for a constructive MDGs review within 68<sup>th</sup> GA Special Event in 2013.