Fifth Session of the Opening Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Briefing of the Co-Chairs

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Monday 25 November, 2013
A sense of urgency

- Continued unacceptable levels of poverty and their dehumanizing and destabilizing consequences need urgent responses
- If the science is to be believed, failure to slow climate change, natural resource degradation and loss of biodiversity is imposing rising costs and will set back social and economic progress
The social (MDG) agenda, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, etc.

Challenging issues: economics, means of implementation, climate change, inequality, governance, etc.

The Way Forward: transition from stock-taking to SDGs

Outline

1
The social (MDG) agenda, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, etc.

2
Inter-sessional Activities

3
Challenging issues: economics, means of implementation, climate change, inequality, governance, etc.

4
The Way Forward: transition from stock-taking to SDGs
Strong consensus:
• Poverty eradication must be overriding objective;
• Goals must be few, measurable, easy to communicate;
• Must build on MDGs, finish that agenda...
• Must be inclusive, “leave no one behind”
• Must be universal – apply to all countries – while recognizing different priorities, levels of development

Broad support for goals/targets on poverty, food security, water & sanitation, health, education, employment, universal attainment of social development threshold.

Must address the 3 dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental - in a balanced way
## Inter-sessional Activities

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 Sept</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Global Compact Leaders Summit</td>
<td>UN Global Compact</td>
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<td>2-4 Oct</td>
<td>Glen Cove, NY</td>
<td>Retreat for PRs on SDGs</td>
<td>Independent Research Forum, World Resources Institute</td>
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<td>7-11 Oct</td>
<td>FAO HQ, Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Committee on World Food Security Fortieth Session</td>
<td>FAO</td>
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<td>8-11 Oct</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
<td>Budapest Water Summit</td>
<td>BWS Secretariat</td>
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<td>30-31 Oct</td>
<td>Tarrytown, New York</td>
<td>UNDG GRULAC Retreat</td>
<td>UNDG and GRULAC</td>
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<td>4-5 Nov</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td>UN ECA, AU, ADB</td>
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<td>6-8 Nov</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey</td>
<td>Post 2015 Europe and Central Asia Regional Consultation</td>
<td>ECE</td>
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<td>8-9 Nov</td>
<td>Glen Cove, NY</td>
<td>LDCs Priorities in post-2015 development agenda and SDGs</td>
<td>UN-OHRLLS</td>
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<td>18-19 Nov</td>
<td>Tunis, Tunisia</td>
<td>Arab Regional Consultative Meeting on SDGs</td>
<td>ESCWA</td>
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<td>22 Nov</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>OWG Intersessional Meeting with Major Groups, other stakeholders</td>
<td>OWG, Major Group organizers</td>
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Challenging issues: The Economic and Environmental Agenda

- Growth and Development for All within the Sustainability Paradigm
- Strengthening productive capacities and technological capabilities
- Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)
- Climate Change and SDGs
  - SDGs w/o addressing CC would be meaningless
  - Yet, ongoing negotiations due to finish in 2015 on future legal agreement ...
  - Can SDGs reinforce the UNFCCC process, raise level of ambition?
  - How can they address need to build resilience?
3 Challenging issues: Addressing drivers and trends

- How to anchor agenda on human rights principles?
- How is the Right to Development to be secured in the SDG agenda?
- How to integrate the governance, peace and security agendas?
- Inequalities: widening in many places, but how to address?
  - ‘leave no one behind’ as an equity principle, means of addressing inequality across all relevant goals/targets?
  - ‘zero targets’ on social goals?
  - indicators that measure progress with disaggregated data?
  - separate goal/target on income, other types of inequality?
The Way Forward

- OWG:
  - Session 5: growth, macro, industrialization, energy, etc.
  - Session 6: MOI, countries in special situations, global governance
  - Sessions 7&8: climate change, cities, SCP; oceans, forests, biodiversity, etc.
  - Informal mtg on S&T in SDGs
  - Informal mtg on measuring progress

- OWG, financing committee to produce reports to GA by Sept 2014;
- technology facilitation progress report
- 6 Special events of PGA
- 3rd SIDS Conference in Samoa, Sept 2014

- GA to commence discussions on post-2015 development agenda, based inter alia on Synthesis report of the SG
- Possible international conference on financing for development

- Heads of State/Govt
  - To adopt post-2015 development agenda (SDGs, enhanced global partnership, monitoring framework)
What is our vision of the world we want in 2030? How do we translate that into goals? What is needed to achieve those goals (targets)? How do we ensure they are ‘action-oriented’? How do we address resource requirements to achieve vision?

Universal yet nationally differentiated: How to avoid proliferation of non-comparable national targets, indicators?

Few in number: How to deal with broad range of topics encompassed by sustainable development? ... need to prioritize

Balancing three dimensions of SD: “environmental”, “social”, “economic” goals – or address all three under all relevant goals?

Cross-cutting issues and inter-linkages among issues
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Thank you!

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