New York, 30 June 2014

Excellency,

We are now entering the final phase of our work. The Open Working Group (OWG) has come a long way, starting in March 2013 with eight stock taking meetings, followed by consideration of elements for a goals and targets framework, at the 9th session, that commenced on March 2014. Since then the OWG has forged an ambitious, extensive yet focused text. The next and final step is to finalize and refine the framework and pass it on to the General Assembly.

Happily the working group has lived up to its name; it has remained open to all governments and embraced the voice of civil society, including the business community, academia and United Nations Organizations, all of whom together have brought tremendous breadth and depth to our deliberations. Already the current final Zero Draft is a testament to this extensive and inclusive consultation and the OWG has benefited enormously as a consequence.

As we committed at the close of the 12th session of the Open Working Group, we are pleased to share with you a carefully refined version of the Zero Draft. Our task was greatly facilitated by the in-depth and constructive nature of the Group’s discussions during the informal-informals.

We have adjusted the document to more closely reflect areas of agreement and expressed priorities. We have also sought to simplify and harmonize the phrasing of some of the goals. And, as promised, we have tightened the draft by substantially consolidating the number of targets.

How we proceed to consider the final Zero Draft will be important. After a year and a half of work we have 8 working days remaining to complete our work. In light of all the good work that has gone before and the productive camaraderie of the working methods that have evolved, we are confident that we have enough time to complete our task and to present to the world an exemplarily set of global goals and targets that we can all be proud of and that will hold our world in good stead for the next generation.

We thank you again for your cooperation and count on your continued support in bringing our work to a successful conclusion.

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 Kőrösi
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