

Open Working group on Sustainable Development Goals

“Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance”

Draft statement – on behalf of Romania and Poland

Peace, rule of law and democratic governance are not only closely inter-related, but also mutually reinforcing and critical for achieving sustainable development. This linkage was clearly stated on several occasions, namely in the outcome documents of the Rio+20 conference and the Special Event on 25 September 2013. In the same vein, the UNGA declaration of 24 September 2012 recognized that the relationship between the rule of law and development should be considered in the future international development agenda.

We reinforce in this setting the common vision that the post-2015 development agenda shall *“promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all”*.

There is no equivoque whether these issues shall be integrated in the development agenda, but the main questions we are gathered to answer are **how they should be reflected and how should we measure their achievement for a successful agenda**.

Peace is the critical platform for sustainable development. We have learned from recent experience of the MDGs that without peace there cannot be ground for development.

Prevention of conflicts and building peace are key aspects we need to address when designing the post 2015 agenda. And we have to bear in mind that the nature of conflicts has changed and shifted from inter-state to intra-state level, with new kinds of violence from organized crime, displacement, to pervasive humanitarian crisis. They undermine the States' security and stability, through severely weakening institutions and preventing the society to develop. They not only erode from within, but also spill over negative impact regionally and internationally.

Within this setting **we need to target the drivers of new patterns of conflict** by strengthening national preventive capacity, reinforcing peaceful means of dispute resolution, dialogue and cooperation at national, regional and international levels. Multi and inter-disciplinarity of this approach is of utmost importance.

There is no sustainable post 2015 agenda without sustainable peace and stable society!

Sustainable development cannot be conceived and achieved without strengthening the rule of law. In our countries, this process is permanently consolidated, building upon the results obtained so far.

Judicial reform aiming at a fair, responsive independent and accountable justice system, as well as the full access to justice and respect by all actors, including the political ones, of the court decisions lay at the foundation of the strengthening of the rule of law at the national level.

Fighting against corruption, promoting integrity, ensuring transparency, predictability and accountability of the governance are among the key goals pursued every day during the policy formulation and implementation. **They are measurable features.**

Democratic and effective institutions are the key structure for the sustainable development of the society and should be integrated in the future framework as a **stand – alone goal**. We would also like to see reflected in the post-2015 Development agenda **targets of eliminating corruption worldwide**, in an inclusive manner, with coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, including the civil society.

The rule of law is the glue that brings society together and helps it develop in all dimensions. It is so essential for development that we need to set high goals and standards, smart enablers or **otherwise the process is compromised before it starts**. Rule of law should speak throughout post-2015 agenda reinforcing democratic governance and peaceful societies.

The experience we've acquired during the latest two decades of democratic transition may be easily shared in assisting and supporting the interested countries by offering lessons learned and expertise in building and developing effective institutional capacity.

We reinforce our commitment to contribute to the Open Working Group's outcome towards a meaningful and inclusive post-2015 agenda with goals and enablers that recognize the inter-relations and mutually reinforcing nature of peace, democratic governance, rule of law and sustainable development.