

Talking points

- Let us start by recalling that the Rio+20 Conference confirmed the importance of a common global vision for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the humanity. It also underlined the necessity to create a single overarching policy framework, which, Bulgaria and Croatia believe, should be aimed at eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.
- As members of this working group it is our responsibility to contribute to the achievement of that ambitious objective. The basic prerequisite for that would be to be able to have a meaningful and substantial discussion. Such a discussion requires a flexible and inclusive program of work which will allow us to touch upon all priority issues included in the three dimensions of the sustainable development. Another necessary ingredient for the success of our endeavor, we believe, is the constructive and insightful contribution of the broadest possible range of stakeholders.
- In the process of designing the overarching framework for post-2015 period we should not divert our efforts from the achievement by 2015 of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, such a framework should be build upon the results of the Millennium Development Goals review.
- The understanding of our two countries is that poverty eradication and sustainable development are interlinked and together they represent the major global challenge that needs to be addressed. This working group should not build its discussions on opposing one issue to the other but on taking into account the existing interdependencies.
- Let us keep in mind that according to the decision taken in Rio, the future SDGs should address the three dimensions of the sustainable development in a balanced way. Bulgaria and Croatia believe this is indeed the right way to lead the discussions in the working group – by tackling issues dimension by dimension. The priorities set as a result of the deliberations of this working group should address both – poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- Last but not least, the working group should address the crosscutting issues. The existence of a link between human rights, empowerment of women, gender equality, justice and equity, good governance and sustainable development is unquestionable. Also, we should not forget the role of peace and security in the pursuit of a sustainable development.
- By taking into account the existence of the crosscutting issues we will be able to see the interlinkages between the three dimensions and address them in a balanced and coherent way. Putting them in a broader context will reveal the gaps and will facilitate our work in the process of contributing to a formulation of meaningful and implementable sustainable development goals.