

## Ninth Session of the OWG on SDGs

March 3-5, 2014

### Statement delivered by Amb. Tanmay Lal, Joint Secretary (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs, India

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to share some comments on your 'Focus Areas' document in my national capacity. We of course align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

At the outset, let me commend you on the inclusive and comprehensive vision outlined in your 'Focus Areas' document. The vision and concept of sustainable development is a holistic one, and our vision and approach to the SDGs must be equally holistic and inclusive.

In our view, the 'Focus Areas' document presents a useful basis for the next iteration of this document containing possible goals and targets. Its comprehensive and holistic approach must continue to be the basis for the possible goals and targets that may now be developed. Any attempt at streamlining must not be at the cost of adequate emphasis on key issues.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

My delegation would like to share the following **10 points** with regard to the 'Focus Areas' document. We hope that these points will be taken into consideration for the next iteration of the text.

**First**, we welcome the emphasis on eradication of poverty in all its forms in the document. We need an ambitious goal on ending poverty by 2030. For such a goal to be meaningful, it would have to be accompanied with adequate means of implementation such as enhanced ODA and a strengthened global partnership.

**Second**, just as eradication of poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, similarly inclusive economic growth, infrastructure, industrialization, employment generation, and universal access to modern energy services are a prerequisite for eradicating poverty and attaining development objectives. We therefore strongly support standalone goals on these issues, along with relevant targets. The economic pillar is the foundation of sustainable development and this must be adequately addressed and elaborated under the SDGs.

We also favour goals on the 'Focus Areas' of Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Education, Water and Sanitation and Gender Equality.

While the 'Focus Areas' document has correctly highlighted the issue of inequality *between* countries, the imperative of correcting this through reform international systemic issues needs further elaboration.

**Third**, we strongly support the call made by the Group of 77 to mainstream and integrate means of implementation across each goal. We believe the objective of the SDGs is not merely to list out the major global problems, but to generate an international compact for multilateral cooperation to address those problems. Our ambition in substance needs to be matched by our ambition for generating the means to achieve these objectives. The international community must provide enhanced financial and technological support and capacity building to developing countries to enable them to reach those goals.

In this context, we would also emphasize that while integrating means of implementation across each of the goals, it would be important to maintain a standalone goal on a 'Strengthened Global Partnership for Development'. This goal should have adequate focus on international systemic issues, building on and strengthening MDG-8.

**Fourth**, there have been calls by many delegations for a universal SDG framework. To do so, we would have to ensure that unlike the MDGs, the SDGs do not end up being a series of policy prescriptions for only one set of countries. A truly universal set of goals implies, first and foremost, that the developed countries also take on concrete commitments and deliverables. They must take the lead in addressing environmental issues and to promote sustainable consumption and lifestyles. A universal agenda also demands that developed countries support the efforts of developing countries with enhanced financial and technological support and through reform of global governance to enhance the voice of developing countries in global decision making.

Universality is synonymous with differentiation, and the principle of CBDR well captures this duality. Differentiation, as embodied in the principle of CBDR, would be the basis of crafting targets under the universally relevant goals.

**Sixth**, the narrative accompanying the final report of the OWG must not be renegotiated. It must be drawn from the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. This narrative must clearly reference the principle of CBDR as reaffirmed by our leaders in the context of international cooperation on sustainable development.

**Seventh**, Mr. Co-Chairs, the multiple objectives under environment can be usefully integrated under one holistic goal on the sustainable management of natural eco-systems. Such a goal could usefully integrate deliverables on various issues such as oceans, forests, biodiversity etc. We would also need to respect the mandate and principles of the respective multilateral processes dealing with these issues.

**Eighth**, on climate change, there has been a broad agreement in the OWG for addressing this issue under relevant goals rather than placing it as a standalone goal. Any deliverable on climate change under SDGs, whether as a separate goal or as integrated across relevant goals, must scrupulously adhere to the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Any deliverables on climate change should be framed in a way that they do not prejudice or prejudge the ongoing discussions under UNFCCC.

**Ninth**, we strongly favour a standalone goal on sustainable consumption and lifestyles. A universal agenda and the urgent imperative of sustainable development require that the developed countries take the lead through concrete deliverables on shifting their societies and economies to sustainable consumption and lifestyle patterns in accordance with the principle of CBDR. While doing so, they would create positive reference models and also incentivize technological innovation needed for such shifts.

**Finally**, Mr. Co-Chairs, while talking of governance and peace and security, we must also address the abiding democratic deficit in the institutions of global governance. Developing countries need to be given real voice and participation in global decision making. Institutions responsible for global peace and security must be fully reflective of contemporary realities.

I thank you Mr. Co-Chair.