

Australia, the Netherlands and United Kingdom

Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group, 10th Session, March-April 2014
Constituency Statement

Meeting 1: Methodology and goals and targets definitions

- Thank the co-chairs for their efforts and guidance so far and look forward to your continued leadership as we set about designing the goals and targets.
- Welcome broad consensus that eradicating poverty in all its forms is the overarching priority
 - the new agenda must finish the job on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as address new and emerging issues.
- We reaffirm that the Sustainable Development Goals should be based on the Millennium Declaration, the Rio +20 Outcome Document and the Outcome Document of the MDG Special Event.
- The **goals** are the overarching statements that will define the world we want. They should be:
 - simple, compelling and limited in number
 - people focused and ambitious, yet realistic
 - universal in scope.
- The **targets** mobilise the agenda and are the tools to drive progress towards achieving the world we want. They should be:
 - strategic – enabling different partners to work together
 - resonant – powerful and clear enough to communicate
 - authoritative – focus efforts toward delivering results.
- The new agenda should **complement goals in other forums**, respect current mandates and negotiations and take into account relevant international processes.
- However, we should not limit ourselves unnecessarily. The framework will cover outcomes we would like to see out to 2030.
- We need to ensure we **include all relevant issues**, and do not omit issues because they appear difficult or challenging – for example, peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions.
- If we are to achieve our aim of eradicating extreme poverty we **need to focus on the development outcomes we want in 2030**, not the art of the possible in 2015.
- Key to the success of the new framework will be to move to a **new global partnership** for sustainable development that is inclusive of new actors and new avenues of cooperation, including between governments, international organisations, civil society and the private sector. At the operational level, multi-stakeholder partnerships around new goals will be crucial for the implementation of the new agenda.
- We look forward to contributing our ideas on the content of the goals and targets in our discussions this week.