



Sustainable World Initiative

Reaction to the Final Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda (July 26, 2015)

Recommendations

We thank all Member States for their contributions to the revised text of the Outcome Document for the Post-2015 Agenda and have a few suggestions for enhancing the language in the final draft. Firstly, we recommend stating that this Agenda seeks to eradicate the impoverishment of people and the planet, as these two integral concepts go hand in hand and better reflect the all-encompassing vision of this Agenda.

8. In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. ~~Poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is the overarching priority and~~ **The central imperative of the Agenda is eradicating the impoverishment of people and the planet.** We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels and to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where the right to have access to safe and affordable drinking water is universally realized; where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious; where there is adequate and accessible sanitation and hygiene. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

Secondly, we recommend revising the language in paragraph 10 on “robust” and “sustained” economic growth “in order to generate resources” for poverty eradication. It sounds similar to the business-as-usual approach, which has led to widespread poverty, and it undermines the emphasis in this paragraph on sustainability.

10. We envisage a world in which every country enjoys ~~robust, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in order to generate resources for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the achievement of sustainable development~~ **economic prosperity and universal well-being.** A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land to oceans and seas – are sustainable. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.

Finally, we commend the inclusion in the Declaration of the first sentence in paragraph 32, recognizing that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the planet's natural resources. However, the last sentence, which addresses ways to prevent further environmental damage, should also include necessary measures to restore ecosystems that have already been compromised.

32. We recognise that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources. We are therefore determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, as well as mountains and dry-lands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife. We are also determined to promote sustainable tourism, tackle water scarcity, desertification, land degradation and drought and to promote resilience and disaster risk reduction. We will achieve this by ~~promoting sustainable development~~ **investing in ecological restoration** and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.

For additional information, please contact Rosanna Marie Neil (rneil@swinitiative.com).