



Date: 1 April 2014

Cluster 3: Water and sanitation; Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

Joint input of Montenegro and Slovenia for the 10th Meeting of OWG SDG

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Slovenia and Montenegro.

Water and sanitation:

Slovenia and Montenegro support a standalone goal on water and sanitation.

The elements included in this focus area properly capture the multidimensional nature and cross-cutting importance of water and sanitation for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Within this goal, as a matter of priority, we should have target on 1) ensuring universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all. Ensuring universal access to water and sanitation also means full enjoyment of human right to safe drinking water and (basic) sanitation. We believe that this is a global minimum standard that should be applied to everyone.

2.) The next priority target should be on better water resource management and improving water-use efficiency in all sectors, including in households, agriculture, industry, energy and urban areas. Both, better resource management and improving water-use efficiency can ensure meeting the competing demands among different sectors. 3.) The third priority target should be on strengthening wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse of water.

We also believe that within this goal we should also target protecting and restoring water-linked ecosystems, including mountains as well as watersheds and wetlands. There is a strong connection between mountain areas and water, as mountains provide up to 80% of the world's fresh water for domestic consumption and sanitation, and are subject to increasing pressure by human activities and climate change. In this regard, importance of sustainable management of mountain water resources and improved wastewater treatment in mountain areas cannot be overlooked.

Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition:

Slovenia and Montenegro support a standalone goal on ensuring food security and good nutrition.

The proposals under this focus area appropriately address all major issues in the field of ensuring food security, good nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Within this goal our primary objective should be ending hunger and ensuring everyone has access to safe, affordable and nutritious food.

This goal should also recognize the role of sustainable agriculture as an important driver of sustainable development and for poverty and hunger eradication. Sustainable agriculture contributes to efficient use of land, water and energy. In the context of sustainable agriculture, we would call for a stronger link with the GHG emissions reductions from this sector.

We favor the integral approach to agriculture in terms of wider rural development and, in particular, link with sustainable tourism. We also welcome the link between rural development and non-agricultural employment opportunities in priority area on employment and decent work.

We also wish to point out importance of promoting responsible agricultural investments as they can substantially contribute to promote sustainability in agricultural sector.