

**11h Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
5-9 May, 2014**

Statement by Nicaragua and Brazil

[General comments]

Thank you,

We appreciate the good efforts by the Co-Chairs in driving the process forward.

It is our assessment, however, that the latest version of the Focus Areas document has moved us away from the middle ground, and that the text has become more unbalanced.

CBDR has been short-changed. A general reference in the Chapeau may no longer be sufficient to translate the critical CBDR commitment in concrete terms.

The environmental dimension has been enhanced and mainstreamed into several focus areas in ways that are unrelated to internationally agreed frameworks. Unknown and untested concepts such as "climate smart agriculture" have been introduced, whereas well-known and thoroughly defined concepts, such as "harmful agricultural subsidies" and the goal of their elimination have disappeared.

Views supported by a clear majority of troikas such as the eradication of poverty as an overarching and stand alone goal have been ignored (poverty is now combined with shared prosperity and equality), whereas, on the basis of a suggestion by a single member (actually not even a member of the troika OWG system) a target to "eliminate narcotic drugs a substance abuse" was introduced. For us, the global problem of drugs and substance abuse should be dealt with

through health and social inclusion public policies, not repression, so we would not be in agreement with the formulation.

The very well known and understood "decent work" for all agenda was replaced by an unrealistic and possibly unfeasible objective of "full employment for all" -- a most disturbing backward movement.

In short, compacting text cannot be achieved at the expense of one of the three pillars that guide these negotiations, in particular the social dimension, nor to the detriment of substance and balance. We should not prejudge the number of goals. We need in fact to accommodate them to the challenges set by the Rio+20 outcome document, and the scope and ambition of our SDGs must be commensurate with the means of implementation.

The current procedure of revising working texts through the hands of the co-facilitators is clearly undergoing a phase of diminishing returns. We therefore fully align ourselves with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China calling for interactive, informal and intergovernmental consultations, including between sessions of the OWG, so that more time is allotted to our complex and far reaching negotiations.

Mr. Co-Chair,

It was the intention of Brazil and Nicaragua to make initial general remarks on the new text and on procedure. But as you have opened the floor for specific interventions on areas 1 and 2, I will proceed with the following additional points.

[Focus 1: Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality]

We must express our surprise with the splitting-up and dilution of the area on equality, its two halves now appearing under other the focus areas on poverty eradication and on industrialization.

We do not recall any plea from delegations to proceed in such a manner. In fact we recall several delegations requesting inequality to be strengthened, not only within but, most importantly, among countries.

The promotion of equality should not be limited to the title of focus area 1, as now stands; but become an acknowledged priority and a structural dimension of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Item b) should have a specific numerical target. For instance: "to halve the proportion of people living below national poverty lines by 2030", or to establish that such numerical target must be defined nationally.

Item c) should reflect ILO's recommendation 202, in particular on moving towards universal access to basic social security, which has direct impact on poverty alleviation. Brazil and Nicaragua suggest the following language: "by 2030 extend coverage of nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including social protection floors, with focus on the poor and most vulnerable"

Brazil and Nicaragua would propose an additional item on income inequality, reading as follows: "ensure that the income growth of the bottom 25% of the population is x% higher than the national average by 2030".

Item b) of focus area 16, on access to justice, would find better placement under focus area 1, since it provides for ending legal discrimination against the poor and most vulnerable.

Similarly, we propose a target on universal access to public services, which would read as follow: "by 2030 to ensure universal and equal access to public services, including measures to addressing the specific needs of those living in vulnerable conditions".

Deletion of items b), c) and g) of previous focus area 12 - promoting equality - should be reversed. In order to promote equality, there is need to address the vulnerabilities of groups such as women, indigenous, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth, as well as discrimination based on race, ethnicity or age. In this regard, I would suggest the following target: "by 2030 to promote economic, social, political and environmental inclusion of poor and vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth".

For the section on means of implementation under the focus area 1, we propose:

- To ensure the fulfillment of commitments by developed countries to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA) for developing countries, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for official development assistance to the least developed countries by 2020, and 1 per cent by 2030
- To ensure predictable and adequate international financing for developing countries requiring assistance to implement poverty reduction policies;

- To ensure that global trade and investment rules are designed and implemented with the objective of addressing pro-actively the specific constraints faced by developing countries, including the effective operationalization of the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries;
- To ensure that adequate policy space is given to developing countries to enable such countries to establish and implement their policies in favor of poverty eradication and in the interest of the poor and most vulnerable.

[Focus area 2: Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition]

Regarding focus area 2, item c), we must bear in mind that use of chemicals in agriculture is not intrinsically bad, so long as international security standards are respected, as those established in the Codex Alimentarius and in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions on chemical waste. It is inconsistent with these standards and Conventions, therefore, to simply call for a flat reduction of chemicals in agriculture without taking in consideration specific circumstances and needs. Tropical agriculture, for instance, requires more chemicals than similar activities in temperate climate zones. We proposed deleting reference to chemical reduction in agriculture on item c).

The concept of "climate smart agriculture", in item g), is not recognized by any multilateral agreement, nor does it have any consensual scientific or political meaning. We insist on replacing it with the more familiar term "sustainable agriculture", which refers to the economically viable, environmentally friendly and socially inclusive practices of agriculture. We also suggest deleting the word "including" in the same item, since it conveys the idea that "drought" and "climate change" are extreme weather phenomena, which is conceptually inadequate. In our

view, the item should read as follows: "by 2030 achieve sustainable agriculture that is adaptable to extreme weather, drought, climate change and natural disasters". As sustainable agriculture is already addressed in item c), we support deletion of item g).

Item e) addresses two different issues and should be divided accordingly as follows: e-1) "reduce the global rate of food loss along the food supply chain by x% by 2030"; e-2) "reduce the global rate of food waste due to unsustainable lifestyles in developed countries by x% by 2030".

Finally, Brazil and Nicaragua would like to make concrete proposals for the section on means of implementation under focus area 2:

- Immediately phase out export subsidies in developed countries, in line with the WTO Hong Kong Declaration of 2005 (which agreed on an elimination target for 2013);
- Substantially and effectively phase out trade distorting subsidies in developed countries by x% by 2020;
- Increase the flow, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound agricultural technologies to developing countries by 2020;
- Support developing countries, especially LDCs, in implementing capacity building policies in support of their national plans for agriculture;
- Ensure adequate policy space for developing countries to support their agricultural sector and farmers, including in conditions for loans and aid.

I thank you, Mr. Co-chair.