

**11h Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**  
"Gender equality and women's empowerment" and "Water and sanitation"

**Statement by Brazil and Nicaragua**

**5/5/2014**

[Gender equality and women's empowerment]

Mr. Co-chair,

Brazil and Nicaragua support the statement by Bolivia on behalf of G-77 and China.

We would like to reiterate our call to have the expression "full realization of the human rights of all women and girls" reflected in the title of the focus area. In our view, such reference is necessary to further broaden the scope of MDG3, aligning focus area 5 with the ambition of the outcome document of Rio+20 and the agreed conclusions of the 58th Commission on the Status of Women.

We welcome the changes in items e) and f), and we wish to reiterate three proposals presented by Brazil and Nicaragua during the last session:

On item b), we should acknowledge the multiple forms of violence against all women and girls, not only in public but also in private spaces. Item b) should, therefore, read as follows: "eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces" (Paragraph 1 of CSW Agreed Conclusions). Nicaragua and Brazil believe that item "b" of focal area 5 is the right entry point for dealing with the elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women, including trafficking, and that reference to this same issue in focus area 16, item "a", is unwarranted and should be deleted.

Nicaragua and Brazil would like to support the following language for item h): "By 2030 to ensure equal sharing of unpaid work, and to value, reduce and better distribute the burden of unpaid care work". We should have a more comprehensive approach on this matter, as was done in respect of other items under focus area 5.

We stress the importance and recognize the sensitivity of item i), and recall our proposal to ensure by 2030 universal access to comprehensive quality sexual and reproductive health and the enjoyment of reproductive rights, in accordance with national law, including through access to modern methods of contraception. We believe that paragraphs 145, 146 and 241 of the Rio+20 outcome document, which refer to the Beijing platform and the ICPD, as well as their subsequent review conferences outcomes, contain elements that we can utilize in drafting a significant goal.

## [Water and sanitation]

Item a) correctly summarizes and broadens commitments under MDG-7. We note, on the other hand, a reference to "hygiene" has been introduced. We do not oppose this, but we have concerns as to how such a concept would be objectively assessed or translated into verifiable indicators, applicable to different cultural contexts.

Brazil and Nicaragua regret to notice that issues related to sanitation lost emphasis in the new version of the document. To underscore its relevance for developing countries, we propose the following target: "All countries by 2020 to have in place basic sanitation policies, including planning, transparency, accountability and participation, also allowing for more favorable tariffs for the most vulnerable groups."

Item c) is another instance in which sustainable consumption is disregarded, and only sustainable production is considered. We would also insist on a more comprehensive approach, referencing all productive sectors; not just agriculture. Furthermore, we propose the inclusion of a target on the sustainable consumption of water, in order to: "reduce by X% unsustainable consumption of water in developed countries by 2030".

Regarding item d), I would wish to reiterate that there is no reference in the Rio+20 outcome document to "trans-boundary cooperation". Applying this terminology to targets at the international level could be interpreted in ways contrary to the sovereign right of States over their natural resources.

In order to be consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document and with principles of international law, item "d" should read as follows: to "improve the implementation of integrated water resource management at all levels, as appropriate" (paragraph 120 of "The Future We Want").

We believe item h), on water-related disasters, could be merged with item e) of focus area 10, on sustainable cities and human settlements, or simply moved to that section.

Mr. Co-chair,

We have the following concrete proposals for means of implementation under Focus Area 6:

- "Support efforts in developing countries on water and sanitation activities and programs, through provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer."
- "Double by 2030 capacity building, in particular through expanding international cooperation for water-related vocational training"
- "Facilitate access to water- and sanitation-related technologies, especially water harvesting technologies and wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies".

I thank you, Mr. Co-chair.