

Focus Areas – OWG SDGs – 5-9 May/ 2014

Comments from El Salvador for the 11th Session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)

REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF MAY 2014 OWG FOCUS AREAS

Focus area 1.

Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality

-We support the redefinition of the title, since it includes elements of reducing inequities and proceeds with respect to the above formulation.

-El Salvador considers it important the reference in eradicating extreme poverty, since the MDGs goal was to reduce it by half. However, in order to have such an ambitious objective, it is necessary to have the means of implementation that are up to par.

-With respect to subSection B, it needs to be defined if the percentage would be established by each country or if there will be specific percentages according to indicators.

-In Section C, regarding coverage, we would prefer that the reference to the “vulnerability” is maintained and not “marginalized”. We also observed that the list has been removed from vulnerable groups, but we understand that it could be reflected in the indicators for children, older persons, youth, unemployed, migrants and people with disabilities.

-The reference to decent work has been removed but we observed that it has been reflected in focus area 8.

Focus area 2.

Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

-We note a divergence between subSections A and C, taking into account that subSection C could practically lead to the use of genetic modification (GMOs) and intellectual property issues. In this regard we should define indicators that directly benefit small farmers.

-With regard to subSection D, we believe it is important to keep the word "promote" instead of "achieve," since in the case of indigenous peoples, they already have adequate knowledge in these areas.

-In Section E, we would understand that the reference is based on the food supply chain established by the FAO in accordance to production, postharvest handling and storage, processing, distribution and consumption.

-According to Section G, this would lead us to the discussion of genetically modified organisms and trade agreements related to aspects of intellectual property rights. In this regard, we would prefer to return to the previous wording in Section H from the earlier version which established strengthening the capacity for agricultural systems to recover and the supply of food regarding climate change.

- In Section F, we believe it is important to add "in consultation with local communities" as reflected in Section I from the earlier version.

Focus area 3.

Health and population dynamics

-We agree that the above title should be maintained and we highly support the new subtitle for its implications of rights and its inclusivity of older persons (life cycle approach).

-We consider that should be taken up in its entirety in Section B from the earlier version referring to strengthening of systems, funding and training.

-In Section G, we consider that other forms of pollution should be taken into account.

-In terms of access, the indicators should reflect all age groups and all people.

-Section L was eliminated earlier but we understand that the groups mentioned (people with disabilities, youth, migrants and the elderly) would be included specifically as indicators.

-El Salvador supports the retention of sub item F.

Focus area 4.

Education and life-long learning

-We support the renaming of the area, as well as the new subtitle, for its reference to quality and also to older persons. (Life cycle approach)

-Unlike the MDGs where the goal to achieve universal primary education was established, we support this new proposal for coverage beyond primary education.

-We consider that Sections A and C have a direct link. However may be considered to take C as an indicator of A.

-In Section D, where reference is made to adults, we should understand that it also relates to the elderly.

-When talking about education for all, we assume that you are taking into account groups like migrants (without discrimination of their migratory status).

-In Section F, when talking about the content of the curriculum, we believe that this should be open to themes such as culture of peace, human rights, multicultural education and participation.

Focus area 5.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

-The new proposal is in line with the provisions established in CSW58 and in the declaration of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean. El Salvador supports it, given that it goes far beyond the MDG3, where the goal is only to "promote" gender equality and empowerment.

-Sections A and B could be combined. The capacity to "finish" with violence and discrimination would be based off of the indicators, since other aspects such as ensuring the elimination of domestic violence may be unrealistic.

-With respect to Section C (which speaks of education at all levels) we consider it important to align it with the provisions of Section A on the area focused on education, which only speaks of primary and secondary education.

-Regarding Section E, we want to re-affirm that it must also indicate access to financial resources

-The previous Section I should be aligned with Section F on the area focused on health and we defend their inclusion as such, both in this focused area of health and population dynamics.

'El Salvador supports the retention of section I.

-We defend the new wording of Section F, which goes far beyond the ODM3.3 However; we must add "spheres" along with public and private "institutions."

-In Sections G and H, we need to put much emphasis on what kind of indicators we should have, otherwise it might be impossible, especially in the case of "unpaid work" for which quantification would require legal and internal economical adjustments.

Focus area 6.

Water and sanitation

-In Section A, we consider important that access to water be ensured for all (instead of the current wording as "especially for women and girls") and add the concepts of sufficient, acceptable and accessible, as set out in resolution 68/157 and in the definition of the right to safe drinking water.

- We found a significant link between this focused area, especially in Section C and the subsections of the focal area 2, C and F, concerning sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

- We highly support Section D on transborder cooperation, but we request the addition of "as decided by relevant States."

- There is no mention of the sustainable use of water in urban areas, and we request for the link between this focused area and the focused area 10.

- Section H is more related to disaster management and not the management of water resources. We therefore call for it to be transferred to the focus areas 12 and / or 13.

Focus area 7.

Energy

-In Section A, we would appreciate the clarification on what we are referring to when we mention "services" since this can generate misunderstanding related to the role of private sector, as the possible sole provider of such services.

-In Section B, the reference to "global" is problematic, since it refers to an overall average that does not necessarily imply development of these technologies universally in all regions.

-We believe it is appropriate to make a link to Section E on the focus area of sustainable societies, with respects to facilitating access to safe transport, affordable, accessible and sustainable for all, improving road safety and urban air quality.

Focus area 8.

Economic growth, employment and infrastructure

-In the title, we should change the word "jobs" to "work," in line with the definition of Decent Work.

-In Section A, we want to know what the 40% of income distribution is based on.

-Section B could be aligned directly with Section B of focus area 1 on the eradication of poverty, and also including vulnerable groups, together with the marginalized, to cover all aspects of discrimination towards employment.

-In Section C, we consider it appropriate to refer to the over- skilled population that can not find employment. Furthermore, this Section can leap into education and access to employment and leave the educational part in focus area 4.

-In section E, we call for the inclusion of furthering entrepreneurship.

-In Section F, we consider it appropriate more the reference of the LDCs and place it in the part of indicators with other categories such as MICs .

-In Section H, we strongly support the mention of migrant workers.

-Section J seems too weak, and not quantifiable, under the verb "encourage"

Focus area 9.

Industrialization and promoting equality among nations

-Focus area 12 of the previous version on the promotion of equity has been completely eliminated in this new proposal. Just as the Section B and I from the previous version on industrialization, related to chemicals and contamination, and the products of developing countries. (We consider it important to resume these points above).

-Sections A and B must be aligned with focus areas 7 and 8.

-We want to express the fact that by strengthening the industrial base in certain countries, it does not establish a foundation for equity between countries (as the title indicates). This was actually rather the intention of the 7 recommendations included in the second part of focus area 12, now deleted. We consider it necessary that these elements are included when talking about the means of implementation.

-We would like to have more detailed explanation of subsection F.

Focus area 10.

Sustainable cities and human settlements

-In Section B, we understand that we are also referring to PUBLIC transportation systems.

-In Section F, we consider it the most important change to replace the term "personal security" to "CITIZEN security" since this is in line with the UNDP reports on the matter.

-In Section G, when accessibility for people with disabilities of all cities is affirmed, we need more information on what would qualify as a "city" and what are the minimum standards to determine whether accessibility has been achieved.

-In Section H, we support its inclusion, but we consider that only mentioning "global" heritage is too limiting (in El Salvador there is only one site with this status) and therefore include also "national" would be more adequate.

Focus area 11.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

-We support the new definition of the title. We note that this focus area in particular, needs the participation and close coordination between the national and international private sector.

- On subsection C we call for the incorporation of indicator that promote and reflect the participation of developing countries in supply chains.

-We note the absence of the number 14D in the previous version (about food waste). Since this problem is also included in the current Section 2E, we believe that taking it up again can help reinforce, and hence, raise the chances of compliance.

- Currently in Section D, we see that we are mixing two issues: The issue of raising awareness is hardly quantifiable. Therefore the call to align it with Section 4F that already talks about education for sustainable development. The remainder of the current Section D refers to labeling and other forms of providing information that involves the State / Private Sector .

-In Section F, what are the mechanisms for reporting referred to as. International? National to be defined by each State?

-In Section G, we ask not to include in one basket the financial sector and the tourism industry. Sustainable tourism should be a Section within itself.

Focus area 12.

Climate change

-El Salvador fully supports the retention of this focus area.

-This focus area is closely linked with the work of negotiation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and it should culminate with a new binding agreement to substitute the Kyoto Protocol, which should be signed in 2015 in Paris (CoP21), to materialize and take effect in 2020.

- In Section A, this redefinition of the average increase in global temperature will depend on what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change present on progress in implementing the Kyoto Protocol since 2005. However, the agreement reached so far on 2 ° C.

-In section C El Salvador will support only depending on the strength of the content under "MOI", in a way that reflect the commitments reached under the IFCCC.

Focus area 13.

Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

-Compared with the previous version El Salvador supports the proposed changes, from the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development and the principle of universality for post-2015 development agenda.

Focus area 14.

Ecosystems and biodiversity

-Compared with the previous version El Salvador supports the proposed changes, from the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development and the principle of universality for post-2015 development agenda.

Focus area 15. Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development

-El Salvador underscores that Focus Area 15 on Means of Implementation is by far the most fundamental section, because a meaningful and adequate set of actions is needed if developing countries are to be able to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

-We are seriously concerned that Focus Area 15 on Means of Implementation in this third version of the document does not refer specifically to concrete actions that developed countries, and the international financial institutions in which they have a majority voice in, should undertake.

-El Salvador considers that sustainable development financing should come from both external and domestic sources, and includes both public and private flows. They should complement but not substitute each other as each source of financing has its own role and objectives.

-We have concerns in target (a). It reads: “promote open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial systems.” The clustering of trade and finance in the same target even when we acknowledge that this wording was in MDG 8.A is entirely inappropriate, because while an open and equitable multilateral trade system should be promoted, an open financial system is an entirely different matter.

-With regard to target (m) on debt, which currently states “ensure debt sustainability and debt relief,” it should be amended to include: “*ensure debt sustainability, debt restructuring and debt relief*” and these efforts should take into account the country’s need to successfully implement the agreed SDGs.

Focus area 16.

Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions

-We must emphasize that the creation of stable and peaceful societies must at all times be an effort created from within the States, along with the always important international accompaniment and taking into account the need to coordinate efforts with our neighboring countries. In this sense, any reference to this subject must be linked directly to developed agendas within the United Nations in the issues of Culture of Peace, strengthening the rule of law and governance.

On the first Section we have the following comments:

-Section A, considers already many elements, some that are already addressed with an international legal body (like organized crime) and others not (violence), therefore we

propose to speak of "crime and social violence," while keeping references to organized crime and human trafficking.

-Section D must go beyond the provision of information and should be linked to point 4F on educational programs. It must speak of the "culture of peace" rather than "culture of non-violence," since the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace is much more comprehensive and is a framework that already exists.

- In Section E, we consider that it should be focused on combating the smuggling of migrants (within the existing legal framework) and on the inclusion of migrants in host societies. Also, something similar should be included in focus area 3 (population dynamics).

On the second part, the comments are below:

-In Section D, it seems too narrow and we request to revert to Section F of the previous version on public access to all information.

-We support Section E, however, the necessary reformulation can be measurable, according to the UN Convention on the subject.

-In Section E, the part about media freedom of expression and association should be separated and we believe these are not the only civil and political rights to be met to have a peaceful and inclusive society.