

7 February 2014

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Fifty-first session

Vienna, 10-21 February 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Space technology for socioeconomic development in the
context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development and the post-2015 development agenda**

**Update on the recent developments in the context of the
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and
the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**I. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development**

1. One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
2. The Rio+20 outcome document stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate. The goals should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.
3. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly, established on 22nd of January 2013 by decision 67/555 (see A/67/L.48/rev.1) of the General Assembly, is tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs.
4. As of today, the Open Working Group has completed its stock-taking phase, comprising eight sessions held from March 2013 to February 2014. The schedule of the sessions of the Open Working Group is enclosed in Annex I.

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.332.



5. United Nations entities supported the sessions through a dedicated Technical Support Team (TST), which developed thematic Issues Briefs to support the OWG discussions. The Office for Outer Space Affairs made contributions to a number of issues briefs, including those on Conceptual issues; Sustainable agriculture; Desertification, Land degradation and Drought; Climate Change and Disaster Reduction; Water and sanitation; Oceans and Seas; Forests; and Health and sustainable development.

6. Beginning on 3 March 2014, the Open Working Group will commence with the consensus building on the goals and targets, and will hold meetings from March to July this year on the following dates:

- 3-5 March 2014
- 31 March-4 April 2014
- 5-9 May 2014
- 16-20 June 2014
- 14-18 July 2014

7. Letter from Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Mr. Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary), the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group, outlining the Co-Chairs' preference for the way forward, is contained in Annex II.

II. Post-2015 Development Agenda

8. In 2014, preparations intensify to conceptualise a common vision for a global development for all peoples beyond the year 2015.

9. During the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Assembly, H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, and his team have been working to promote greater engagement with Member States and all relevant stakeholders through a process defined as "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!"

10. In order to encourage the global community to work toward building consensus and elaborating concrete action for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a number of high-level meetings and thematic debates will take place.

11. In close collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders, the President of General Assembly and his team will convene three thematic debates on:

- The role of partnerships (on 9-10 April 2014);
- Ensuring stable and peaceful societies (on 24-25 April 2014); and
- Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda (on 18-19 February 2014).

12. In addition, the President of General Assembly will host the following high-level events:

- Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda (on 6-7 March 2014);
- Human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda (on 17-18 June 2014); and
- Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda (on 20-21 May 2014).

III. Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space)

13. The 34th session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), is scheduled to be held on 13-14 May 2014 in New York, a week before the high-level event of the President of General Assembly that will address the contributions of ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda.

14. UN-Space will meet back-to-back with UNGIWG (United Nations Geographical Information Working Group), a UN-wide network of professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science.

15. An open informal session is planned to be held on 14 May 2014 with participation of Member States.

Annex I.**SESSIONS OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

DATES	THEMES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM (TST) ISSUES BRIEFS
First session 14-15 Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Election of officers, adoption of agenda ▪ General discussion (2 days) 	
Second session 17-19 Apr 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conceptualizing the SDGs (1.5 days) ▪ Poverty eradication (1.5 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conceptual Issues ▪ Poverty Eradication
Third session 22-24 May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought (1,5 days) ▪ Water and sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought ▪ Food Security and Nutrition ▪ Sustainable Agriculture ▪ Water and Sanitation
Fourth Session 17-19 June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture (1.5 days) ▪ Health, population dynamics (1.5 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and Culture ▪ Employment and Decent Work ▪ Health and Sustainable Development ▪ Population Dynamics ▪ Social Protection
Fifth Session 25-27 November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization (1.5 days) ▪ Energy (1.5 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy ▪ Macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability) ▪ Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth, Infrastructure Development, and Industrialization

DATES	THEMES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM (TST) ISSUES BRIEFS
Sixth Session 9-13 December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Means of implementation (financing, science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); Global partnership for achieving sustainable development (2 days) ▪ Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries (2 days) ▪ Human rights, the right to development, global governance (1 day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Governance ▪ Human rights including the right to development ▪ Means of Implementation; Global Partnership for achieving sustainable development ▪ Needs of Countries in Special Situations – African Countries, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing Middle-Income Countries ▪ Science, Technology and Innovation, Knowledge-sharing and Capacity-building
Seventh Session 6-10 January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport (2 days) ▪ Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste) (1.5 days) ▪ Climate change and disaster risk reduction (1.5 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change and Disaster Reduction ▪ Sustainable cities and human settlements ▪ Sustainable Consumption and Production, including Chemicals and Waste ▪ Sustainable Transport
Eighth Session 3-7 February 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity (2 days) ▪ Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment (1.5 days) ▪ Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance (1.5 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity ▪ Conflict Prevention, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and the Promotion of Durable Peace, Rule of Law and Governance ▪ Forests ▪ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment ▪ Oceans and Seas ▪ Promoting Equality, including Social Equity

Annex II.

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS, 17 JANUARY 2014



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission of Kenya
to the United Nations

New York, 17 January 2014

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, we take this opportunity to thank you for the very constructive debates we held recently, which culminated in successful conclusion of the seventh session of the Group.

As demonstrated during the last session, there were strong indications from the membership that the Group needs to build on the areas we have already covered during the entire stock-taking phase over the last year. We are now left with one more session scheduled from 3 to 7 February that will finalize this phase of the process.

Subsequent to the completion of the final stock-taking session, we will, as we previously informed you, produce a concise stock-taking report based on the themes covered during the entire stock-taking phase. Thereafter, the Open Working Group will commence with the consensus building on the goals and targets in line with its mandate as provided in GA decision 67/555, beginning on 3 March 2014.

Since we already have various inputs from the inclusive consultative process, we acknowledge the opinion sounded out on January 10th to proceed on the basis of the document to be officially presented by us Co-Chairs. We will circulate the document in advance in order to facilitate consultations with your respective capitals.

In line with the above and taking into account the inputs given during our last session, two ideas emerged from the discussions:

- (i) The Co-Chairs will present an inclusive and representative list/compendium of priority areas of sustainable development and the universal commitments needed to make significant and measurable progress in those areas, based on the expressed opinions and interests during the whole stock-taking phase and guided by the criteria and principles of the Rio+20 Outcome Document.
- (ii) Some Member States spoke to the desirability of a loose text based on the stock-taking phase to stimulate further debate on the way forward.

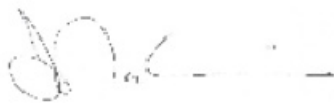
In light of the above, the Co-Chairs' preference will be the first option as it provides a practical position from which to proceed. We believe that this option will provide a credible common point of departure for the next phase of our consensus building, based on common ownership, and ensure inclusiveness and transparency of the process.

The Co-Chairs sought to organize informal intersessional consultations on the way forward, as proposed during the seventh session of the Open Working Group. However, this proved infeasible due to logistical, organizational and timing issues. Therefore, the Co-Chairs will hold open, informal consultations on Tuesday, 4 February at 6-8 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, in order to reach consensus on the way forward.

If your Delegation has not yet done so, we urge you to send your written statements from all prior sessions of the stock-taking phase to the Division for Sustainable Development (dsd@un.org) at your earliest convenience, so that they can be taken into consideration and published on the website of the Open Working Group.

We look forward to continuing this challenging endeavour with you in the coming months.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Mr. Macharia Kamau
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to
the United Nation



Mr. Csaba Körösi
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Hungary to
the United Nations

Permanent Representatives of Member States
listed in Annex to General Assembly decision 67/555
New York

cc: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York