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**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
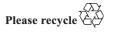Development and the post-2015 development agenda**

Progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals

Note by the Secretariat

This note by the Secretariat contains in <u>annex</u> the text of the draft summary of the first eight meetings of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals provided by the Division of Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations at New York. The draft summary has been sent to all Member States. It is still a draft and Member States have been given a week to make textual changes reflective of their understandings of the work of the OWG.

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

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Progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals

Chapter I

Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", annexed to the resolution. Paragraph 248 of the said outcome document read as follows:

   "248. We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation. At the outset, this open working group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action."

2. By its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly recalled paragraphs 245 to 251 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and reiterated that the open working group on sustainable development goals would submit its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and that reports on the progress of work of the open working group would be made regularly to the Assembly, taking into account the convening of the first high-level political forum, without prejudice to the format and organizational aspects of the forum, and

the special event in 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

3. In paragraph 21 of the outcome document (A/68/L.4) of the September 2013 special event, the General Assembly urged that the OWG complete its work by September 2014.

4. By its decision 67/555 of 22 January 2013, the General Assembly welcomed the membership of the Open Working Group as designated by the five United Nations regional groups and as listed in the annex to the decision.[1]

5. The present report on the progress of work of the Open Working Group is made pursuant to these provisions.

Chapter II

Organizational matters

A. Organization of work

6. Sessions were held as follows: first session (14-15 March 2013, four formal meetings); second session (17-19 April 2013, six formal meetings); third session (22-24 May 2013, six formal meetings); fourth session (17-19 June 2013, six formal meetings); fifth session (25-27 November 2013, six formal meetings); sixth session (9-13 December 2013, nine formal meetings); seventh session (6-10 January 2014, nine formal meetings); eighth session (3-7 February 2014, ten formal meetings).

B. Opening

7. On 14 March 2013, the President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly opened the first session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Statements were made by him and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

C. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting of the first session, on 14 March 2013, the Open Working Group elected His Excellency Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary) and His Excellency Macharia Kamau (Kenya) as its Co-Chairs by acclamation.

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[1] See A/67/L.48/Rev.1, Annex.

D. Agenda

9. At the same meeting, the Open Working Group adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.280/2013/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, relating to a proposal for sustainable development goals.

4. Other matters.

5. Adoption of the report.

E. Methods of work

10. At the same meeting, the Open Working Group adopted its methods of work.[2]

F. Proceedings of the Open Working Group

11. In its first session, on 14 and 15 March 2013, the Open Working Group heard the introduction by the Secretariat of the initial input of the Secretary-General to the Open Working Group (A/67/634), and conducted a general discussion and an interactive discussion on the sustainable development goals.

12. In its second to eighth sessions, the Open Working Group, through keynote addresses, introductions of issues notes by the United Nations Technical Support Team, panel discussions and interactive exchanges of views, and national statements, considered the following subjects:

(1) Second session (17-19 April 2013)

(a) Conceptualizing the sustainable development goals; and

(b) Poverty eradication.

(2) Third session (22-24 May 2013)

(a) Food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought; and

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[2] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1692OWG_methods_work_adopted_1403.pdf

    (b)   Water and sanitation.

(3)   Fourth session (17-19 June 2013)

    (a)   Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture; and

    (b)   Health, population dynamics.

(4)   Fifth session (25-27 November 2013)

    (a)   Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization;

    (b)   Energy.

(5)   Sixth session (9-13 December 2013)

    (a)   Means of implementation (finance, science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building);

    (b)   Global partnership for achieving sustainable development;

    (c)   Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as specific challenges facing the middle income countries; and

    (d)   Human rights, the right to development, global governance.

(6)   Seventh session (6-10 January 2014)

    (a)   Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport;

    (b)   Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste); and

    (c)   Climate change and disaster risk reduction.

(7)   Eighth session (3-7 February 2014)

    (a)   Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity;

    (b)   Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment; and

    (c)   Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance.

Chapter III
Substantive highlights of the work of the Open Working Group to date

13. The Group's work has been organized into two main phases. The first phase focused on stock-taking, collecting views of experts, Member States and other stakeholders, from its first meeting in March 2013 through its eighth meeting in February 2014, when members of the Group deliberated on the main themes, including those identified in the Rio+20 outcome document's Framework for Action, and how they might be reflected in a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). In the second phase, from February through September 2014, the Group will prepare a report to the 68th session of the GA mandated by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development containing a proposal for SDGs.

Meetings with Major Groups and stakeholders and other meetings

14. Beginning with the third session, the Co-Chairs instituted the practice of daily, hour-long morning meetings with representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders, prior to start of the official business of the OWG. The meetings provided a platform for Major Groups and stakeholders to express their views and share their experiences. Members of the OWG were encouraged to attend the morning meetings. The messages of the Major Groups were channelled into the discussions of the Member States.

15. An Intersessional Meeting between Major Groups and other stakeholders and the Open Working Group was held on 22 November with a particular focus on rights-based SDGs that encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, and how the SDGs can eliminate inequalities and poverty. The meeting was an opportunity for the OWG to hear focussed inputs from the Major Groups and other stakeholders. In addition, the members of the OWG also benefited from other events organized on topics relevant to its work. In this regard, the Earth Institute at Columbia University hosted an Expert Group Meeting on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development Goals on 16 December. There was also an informal meeting on measuring progress, organized with members of the statistical community, on 17 December.

Conceptualizing the SDGs

16. Initially it was widely agreed that the Group's proposal on SDGs should be accompanied by a vision and narrative that frames and motivates the selection of the proposed goals. However, at a later stage of discussions, the Group expressed its decision to focus on developing SDGs and associated targets.

17. Many reiterated the principles that should inform the proposal on SDGs, notably all the Rio principles, in accordance with paragraph 246 of "The Future We Want".

18. It is recognized that the SDGs should reinforce and build upon existing international commitments in the economic, social and environmental fields.

19. Poverty eradication remains the overarching objective of the international community and needs to be central to a proposal on SDGs and the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

20. There is widespread recognition that poverty eradication can only be made irreversible if the SDGs advance sustainable development in a holistic manner, that is, if they address and incorporate in a balanced manner all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages.

21. This is because dynamic and resilient economies and a healthy and resilient environment underpin poverty eradication as well as sustained and sustainable social and economic progress.

22. Thus, the advancement and completion of the most off-track MDGs is the starting point, the *sine qua non*, of the SDGs. But the SDGs will need to be more comprehensive, balanced, ambitious and transformative, also addressing the challenges ahead.

23. The need for a few aspirational goals which are easy to communicate was emphasized. Therefore global priorities will need to emerge from a common agreement on where national commitments and international cooperation are most critical to bring about greater positive impact and secure our common future.

24. There was general recognition that, while the balance of the three dimensions can be achieved in many ways, the goals and associated targets and indicators should, in the aggregate, represent a pathway to sustainable development and the future we want. The targets need to be differentiated for countries taking into account the different levels of development.

25. Many felt that the SDGs and associated targets should focus not merely on desirable outcomes but also on key drivers of sustainable development. There were frequent references to the cross-cutting nature of many of the issues under discussion, and the importance of achieving synergies wherever possible by systematically addressing their inter-linkages.

26. There are several enablers and drivers, strategies and approaches for sustainable development which may be difficult to enumerate as goals, among others human rights, rights based approaches, governance, rule of law, and wider participation in decision making.

27. The sustainable development challenges the international community faces are not amenable to solution unless all countries, developed and developing alike, cooperate and commit to action.

28. The prospects for permanent eradication of poverty and sustainable human development depend critically on the state of our planet. It is imperative therefore that sustainable consumption and production patterns take hold in all countries, with the developed countries taking the lead.

29. A substantially strengthened global partnership will be critical to advancing sustainable development. Some of the direst problems we face do not lend themselves to solely national or local solutions.

30. Progress on SDGs will require resources and concerted actions, and for this reason many stressed that a proposal on sustainable development goals would need to include provision for means of implementation such as financing, technology, and capacity building.

31. Governments, acting in concert, will need to lead, but a truly effective global partnership will have to enlist as active partners all of society, including the business sector which is the main driver of global economic growth and job creation, and also a major source of the technologies needed to address global problems.

32. On partnerships, it was noted that targeted multi-stakeholder partnerships have met with some success in mobilizing international efforts and resources behind specific MDGs, and that similar goal-oriented partnerships could be effective in progressing towards the SDGs.

33. To ensure progress is measurable and measured, it will be important to have quantified targets and to ensure that countries have the necessary data collection and statistical capacities to support robust indicators of progress.

Poverty eradication

34. Eradicating extreme poverty in a generation is an ambitious but feasible goal.

35. The progress in reducing poverty over the past generation has been impressive in some regions. However, more rapid and sustained progress is needed particularly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

36. Income poverty remains the principal target but poverty is multidimensional and other dimensions need to be addressed in the SDGs, as they were to a degree in the MDGs. This includes universal access to adequate and nutritious food as well as to basic services like water and sanitation, primary health care and education, and modern energy services.

37. Setting universal coverage targets with respect to these essentials of human well-being would *ipso facto* address inequalities – as meeting the targets would require that even the poorest and most vulnerable be covered.

38. Still, to measure progress, it would be important to collect disaggregated data, to ensure that no income or other social group is left behind.

39. In this way, poverty eradication would be addressed not only as a stand-alone goal but also as a cross-cutting objective in other goals.

40. The poor suffer not only from lack of access to basic services but also very often from the poor quality of the services provided. This applies with particular force to education and health care. Thus, both access and quality of services available to the poor need to be addressed going forward.

41. With respect to provision of universal access, many stressed the importance of strengthening institutional capacities at all levels to deliver better targeted and higher quality services. This was frequently formulated in terms of the need to address weaknesses in governance.

Food security and nutrition; sustainable agriculture; desertification, land degradation and drought

42. The fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger was stressed. In this regard it is critically important to secure access for all to safe, sufficient and nutritious food. Affordability of food is a crucial concern for the poor.

43. An end to hunger and malnutrition is achievable in a generation or less, and it was broadly agreed we should work towards this goal.

44. Adequate nutrition during the critical 1,000 days from beginning of pregnancy through a child's second birthday merits a particular focus.

45. Beyond adequate calorie intake, proper nutrition has other dimensions that deserve attention, including micronutrient availability and healthy diets. Unhealthy diets and lifestyles are closely linked to the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases in both developed and developing countries.

46. Globally, poverty remains most widespread in rural areas, and many small-scale farmers as well as landless agricultural labourers and their households number among the poor and the hungry.

47. Thus, a lasting solution to the scourges of poverty and hunger must include raising smallholder productivity and rural incomes on a sustainable basis.

48. This will require greater investments in agricultural research and rural infrastructure, as well as measures to provide more secure access to land, credit, crop insurance and other productive inputs to smallholder farmers, especially women farmers.

49. Access of small farmers to national, regional and international markets is also critical, including through removal of trade barriers and market distorting subsidies.

50. Healthy, productive and sustainable fisheries are critical for food security as well as livelihoods in many countries; likewise, sustainable livestock raising to augment farm incomes and productivity.

51. Agricultural value chains need strengthening in many developing countries, including post-harvest processing, storage and transport to markets. Losses at these stages significantly reduce food availability and raise costs.

52. Food wastage at the retail and consumer end of the value chain is also a major problem that hampers the capacity of the food system to meet demands from growing populations and changing diets.

53. Sustainable agricultural practices will need to play an increasingly important role in meeting growing food demand going forward. Sustainable farming systems must make more efficient use of all scarce resources and inflict far less damage on the environment than currently pervasive input-intensive systems.

54. There are many elements of traditional farmer knowledge that, enriched by the latest scientific knowledge, can support productive food systems through sound and sustainable soil, land, water, nutrient and pest management, and the more extensive use of organic fertilizers.

55. Halting and reversing land degradation will be critical to meeting future food needs. Rio+20 calls for achieving a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development.

56. Some question whether the objective is sufficiently ambitious, given the current extent of land degradation globally and the potential benefits from land restoration not only for food security but also for mitigating climate change. There is also a recognition that scientific understanding of the drivers of desertification, land degradation and drought is still evolving.

Water and sanitation

57. Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water and sanitation are central to the achievement of many development goals, including agriculture, health and education.

58. While the world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water five years ahead of schedule, the task of providing universal, reliable access remains far from complete.

59. Moreover, extending improved sanitation facilities in rural areas and poor urban communities remains a major challenge, with insufficient progress realized to date towards the MDG 7 target.

60. There is also a strong case for continuing to link sanitation with safe drinking water, as the two are intimately linked health determinants.

61. Scientific evidence shows the global character of hydrological processes and the strong interdependencies among different water functions and uses. Hence the value of an integrated approach to

water resources management spanning multiple levels. The importance of transboundary cooperation in water management was underscored.

62. Water scarcity and water variability are becoming more serious concerns with climate change, and so sustainable water management needs to feature prominently in the post-2015 development agenda.

63. Beyond ensuring essential requirements for healthy living, water use needs to become far more efficient almost everywhere, especially in agriculture and industry.

64. Technologies, infrastructure improvements and incentives are needed for reducing water losses, wastage, and pollution, in order to free up supplies for productive uses.

65. As technologies are needed to use water efficiently, reduce water pollution and treat polluted waters, any targets in this regard should be considered in relation to technology availability and costs.

66. Sustainable management of ecosystems for enhanced water regulation, water quality and water availability needs to be reinforced. Experience shows that investing in protection of critical watersheds, for example, can have high returns, but the services provided by such ecosystems are consistently underappreciated and undervalued.

67. There was broad support for a dedicated water SDG, as the complex interrelations among various water-related concerns call for an integrated approach which would be better catalysed by a single water SDG.

68. Targets could cover various aspects, including possibly: equitable, universal and sustained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene; sustainable development, management and use of surface and groundwater resources respecting ecosystem requirements; reduction of water pollution and collection and treatment of used water and wastewater; reduction of exposure and impacts from floods, droughts and other water related disasters; enhanced water co-operation and improved water governance.

Employment and decent work; social protection; education and culture; youth

69. Creation of enough productive jobs to employ all those seeking work at decent pay: this is a major challenge facing all countries, developed and developing alike.

70. In low-income countries, while unemployment as such is also a pressing issue, of more immediate concern is the dominance of low-productivity employment, mostly in the informal sector, which provides insufficient household income to escape poverty.

71. Building dynamic, resilient, sustainable, and diversified economies is critical to addressing the employment challenge in developing countries. Africa, for example, has the possibility, given its large "youth bulge", of reaping a sizeable demographic dividend, but only if economies are able to generate enough decent jobs through structural transformation including industrialization.

72. As private companies create the lion's share of decent jobs, a policy environment conducive to private investment and entrepreneurship is critical.

73. Tackling youth unemployment is a global priority. Stronger systems to facilitate the school-to-work transition are vital, including for skills development linked to labour market needs.

74. A variety of proposals have been made on employment and decent work, including as stand-alone goal and as target(s) associated with a higher-order goal like "eradicate poverty" or "create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth" (goal 8 of the annex to the High-Level Panel Report).

75. Social protection programmes are important anti-poverty measures that also help build social cohesion. Protecting children from extreme deprivation is a valuable long-term investment in individual and societal well-being.

76. Access to basic health services, income support, school and other supplemental nutrition – these are all elements of a social protection floor. Thus, some elements of a social protection floor may be addressed through food security and health goals.

77. Unemployment insurance and old-age pensions are also important elements of social protection, common in developed countries but spreading more widely.

78. Evidence suggests that a basic, country-specific social protection floor is affordable and feasible even in low-income countries.

79. Education is absolutely central to any sustainable development agenda. It is not only an essential investment but an important basis for human enrichment through life-long learning.

80. The post-2015 development agenda must achieve the MDG goal of primary education for all. However, it should also aim to address quality as reflected in learning outcomes, which will need to be more widely and effectively measured.

81. Gender equality in education is an important objective in its own right, with multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.

82. Moreover, to ensure productive employment in increasingly knowledge-based economies, greater emphasis is needed on secondary school and even tertiary attainment, and some countries may choose to set relevant targets.

83. Even if the emphasis is put on educating young people, continued attention is needed in many countries to raising adult literacy and in all countries to lifelong learning to facilitate adjustment to changing labour market conditions.

84. Culture and cultural diversity are widely understood to be important to societies' creativity, cohesion and resilience, but it is not clear that culture *per se* is "goalable".

Health, population dynamics

85. Health is a right and a goal in its own right, as well as a means of measuring success across the whole sustainable development agenda.

86. There was a fairly broadly shared sentiment that, while the health priorities captured in the health-related MDGs continue to require focus, this could be achieved by integrating them as targets along with other health targets under a single, overarching health goal.

87. One proposed variant of a health goal is: maximize health at all stages of life; another: maximize healthy life expectancy. Any such goal would also need to address the quality of life of those with disabilities.

88. Another proposed health goal focuses on access to services more than outcomes: universal health coverage, which encompasses equitable access to quality basic health services; health promotion, prevention, treatment, and financial risk protection from illness and disability.

89. Achieving an outcome like "maximize healthy lives" would require not only universal health coverage but that a range of social and environmental determinants of health are addressed – from poverty and malnutrition to pollution.

90. The diseases that primarily afflict the poor must remain a central focus of post-2015 global health efforts, and this needs to be reflected in the health targets.

91. Sustained progress is needed on vaccination against common childhood diseases as well as on prevention and treatment of communicable diseases like gastro-intestinal disorders, malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. There was a call for realizing the vision of a generation free from HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

92. At the same time, reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) has become a high priority in many countries, highlighting the need *inter alia* to promote healthy diets and lifestyles.

93. Health is an area where the costs of realizing the same outcome – say in terms of life expectancy or disability-adjusted life years – can vary enormously, and so governments will need to look at cost-effective approaches – especially where an ageing population is expected to strain health care systems.

94. The importance was highlighted of respecting and promoting sexual and reproductive health, and protecting and fulfilling reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. Also stressed was the need to end violence against women and girls, including sexual violence and abuse.

95. Any set of SDGs and related targets must be cognizant of population dynamics, as those will condition their feasibility. Eradicating poverty, for example, becomes all the more challenging in the context of high fertility rates and rapid population growth. Providing adequate health care for all becomes more challenging in the face of rapid population ageing.

96. Population dynamics also have important implications for economy and environment. The rate of increase of the labour force relative to the young and old has implications for potential GDP growth. Population increase and rapid growth of urban middle classes both have implications for resource use,

consumption and production patterns, and environmental pressures.

97. Migration is an aspect of population dynamics that brings important social and economic benefits – through new skills and expanded labour supply in destination countries, remittance flows to sending ones, and return of migrants with increased investment potential to their countries of origin – as well as challenges, including the loss of skilled labour by sending countries and social and cultural integration of migrants in destination countries. Respect for migrants' human rights is a basic touchstone.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization

98. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for poverty eradication. Where growth is accompanied by significant income gains at the bottom of the income distribution, the benefits for the poor are particularly notable.

99. In recent decades and especially since the new millennium, many developing countries have enjoyed relatively rapid and sustained growth. Continuation of, and even improvement on, this performance will be critical to sustaining progress towards poverty eradication.

100. Inclusive growth also remains a priority in developed countries, where unemployment has remained high and income inequalities have been widening. The restored and continued dynamism of their economies is important not only for their own citizens but for the rest of the world in an increasingly integrated global economy.

101. Industrialization is a key driver of both productivity growth and job creation. While countries differ in economic structure, structural transformation towards activities that employ the labour force more productively has been a feature of economic advance almost everywhere; productivity in developing country manufacturing can converge fairly quickly toward levels in developed countries.

102. Structural transformation and industrial development have been cited as priorities for many developing countries, particularly Africa and LDCs. Many countries highlighted the need for economic diversification, moving from reliance on primary

commodity exports to greater value addition. For this, productive capacities and technological capabilities need to be strengthened.

103. The need for growth trajectories based on greater resource efficiency and decoupling of growth from negative environmental impacts was highlighted. A number of delegations made reference to the importance of green growth strategies that aim to transform resource and carbon constraints into innovation, growth and employment opportunities.

104. Infrastructure underpins both rural and urban development as well as industrial development. Access to reliable and affordable electricity, water, transport and communications infrastructure for all is essential for both social equity and economic productivity.

105. Sound domestic macroeconomic policies, an enabling business environment, gender equality, and access to financial services are essential for sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Small- and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs can be important job creators, but limited access to finance and an unconducive regulatory environment can deter their formation and growth.

106. External debt sustainability remains a concern for a number of countries, despite progress with debt relief, and there is need to ensure that debt levels do not become an unsustainable burden on countries' growth. There was also reference to the desirability of greater access to grant and concessional finance for countries in special situations and middle-income countries.

Energy

107. Energy is an enabler for development and is linked to all dimensions of sustainable development. For this reason, there is broad support for its inclusion in a set of sustainable development goals, either standing alone or as part of a broader goal.

108. Access to safe, affordable and reliable energy is a pre-requisite for growth and poverty eradication. Universal access to modern energy services enjoys broad support as a target, including electricity and clean cooking fuels where benefits accrue especially to women and children.

109. There is no significant trade-off between providing modern energy access to the poor and greenhouse gas mitigation.

110. Global energy demand will continue to grow with economic development. During a low-carbon energy transition expected to

take decades, renewable energy will continue to be integrated with conventional energy sources, including fossil fuels. Diffusion and deployment of cleaner fossil fuel technologies will thus be an important dimension of the transition. There is no one-size-fits-all; degrees of freedom exist in charting the transition to a sustainable energy development path.

111. An accessible pool of affordable technologies can support the energy transition and address the challenge of climate change, benefiting from increased investment and international cooperation in conjunction with supportive financing and an enabling policy and regulatory environment.

112. Renewable energy is becoming an integral part of the energy system in a growing number of countries. Renewable energy costs are declining steeply but remain a challenge for low-income countries and consumers. The penetration of renewable energy has proceeded fastest where a developed energy infrastructure is in place but mini-grid technology holds promise for decentralized solutions.

113. Energy efficiency and conservation are critical components of sustainable energy. Some mentioned the need to phase out inefficient and harmful fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. Cushioning any impact on the poor would be essential.

114. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative contains ambitious but feasible targets for universal energy access, for renewable energy and for energy efficiency. Many suggested that it could provide inspiration for an energy-related goal and related targets.

Means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); Global partnership for achieving sustainable development

115. Sustainable development is a global endeavour in which all will need to cooperate. A strengthened global partnership to assist in mobilizing adequate means for effective implementation will be crucial, and there were calls for considering means of implementation in relation to each goal. Another perspective was that multi-stakeholder partnerships should be built in support of the different goals, learning from the MDG experience with successful partnerships.

116. Means of implementation include financing as well as science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building. Financing of sustainable development is the subject of a related process

under the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on a Financing Strategy for Sustainable Development, and many expressed support and high expectations for its work.

117. Thus, while financing was not treated exhaustively, a number of important points were raised. A number of member States noted that the international financing landscape has changed markedly since 2000, with official flows dwarfed by private flows including foreign direct investment and remittances. In most countries, domestic resource mobilization in turn dwarfs international flows. These other sources of financing, as well as innovative financing, play an increasingly important complementary role to ODA.

118. Still, ODA remains a key source of financing, especially for LDCs. A more strategic and catalytic use of ODA can leverage other flows. The need to honour previous commitments, in particular the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI (.15-.20 for LDCs), was emphasized.

119. Domestic resource mobilization is a critical and increasingly important source of public financing, including for infrastructure investment. Mobilizing additional domestic resources for investment is reliant on growth, which has been much more widely spread in recent years than in preceding decades.

120. One means of enhancing domestic resource mobilization is to combat illicit financial flows, tax evasion and transfer mis-pricing. When managed well, the extractive sector can be an important revenue source for promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

121. Public and private sources of finance are both essential and should be complementary, with their relative importance differing across countries and across sectors. Creating a domestic environment conducive to productive private investment involves, among others, rule of law and public investment in well-functioning infrastructure.

122. South-South and triangular cooperation are growing in importance; they can complement but not replace North-South cooperation.

123. Science, technology and innovation are drivers of social and economic development and are fundamental for all countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development.

124. There is a need to facilitate international technology transfer to bridge a persistent technology divide between developed and

developing countries. In this regard, the importance of an enabling environment for technology-related trade and investment flows was underlined. The new technology bank initiative and supporting mechanism for LDCs was welcomed; and many advocated a technology facilitation mechanism to enhance international technology cooperation and transfer.

125. Among other proposals for advancing science and technology for sustainable development were: enhancing international public access to scientific research supported by public funding; creating mechanisms (e.g., patent pools, technology funds, technology prizes) to encourage innovation while facilitating access to privately developed technologies considered essential in providing global public goods and promoting sustainable development.

126. Development of technological capabilities goes beyond the acquisition of foreign technology to include strengthening local productive, adaptive and innovative capacities, building supportive R&D and other institutions, and enhancing the scientific and technical skills of the domestic labour force. Actively encouraging women to engage in science and technology careers broadens the skills base of the economy.

127. A rules-based, equitable, multilateral trade system is an important part of the international enabling environment. A number of trade-related issues and controversies have a bearing on sustainable development – including agricultural and fisheries subsidies – and they are the subject of ongoing discussion and negotiation within the WTO.

128. Continued enhancement of international market access is critical for LDCs and LLDCs. In this regard, the need for enhanced trade facilitation was noted, as was special and differential treatment for LDCs, including duty- and quota-free market access, and strengthening of the freedom to transit particularly for LLDCs.

129. Migration can contribute to economic development of receiving countries, including through knowledge sharing and skills transfer. Sending countries benefit from remittance flows but possibly at the expense of losing skilled labour. Many stated that migration and human mobility should be integrated into the SDGs framework. A few objectives were mentioned: lower the barriers to mobility; uphold the dignity and human rights of migrants; lower the cost of remittances; and increase investment

possibilities for diasporas to contribute to development in their countries of origin.

130. A strengthened Global Partnership involving governments and multi-stakeholder partners will be needed for the implementation of the SDGs. The partnership(s) should be equitable, inclusive, with a fair sharing of responsibilities, and have a strong accountability mechanism or mechanisms for all.

131. There were calls – but not consensus – that the Partnership should be based on the Rio principles, including that of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

132. Business should be part of the solution, but business can rally more easily behind specific, measurable and achievable goals and targets. There is a need for greater private sector uptake of sustainability reporting, and for its being better integrated into corporate accounting frameworks.

133. There is considerable potential to expand multi-stakeholder partnerships, including in support of specific goals. Governments play a key role in providing an enabling environment for such partnerships. Innovative approaches could be explored to mobilize resources and foster cooperation at a global and regional level, building on the successes of certain MDG-related and other partnerships.

Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries

134. It is vital for SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda to take into account the particular situations and needs of countries in special situations. The SDGs should address key vulnerabilities and build resilience, in order to promote inclusive and sustained growth in countries in special situations, benefiting women and vulnerable groups.

135. There is need to consider how to integrate internationally agreed priorities pertaining to countries in special situations – BPOA and MSI, IPOA, Almaty programme, the Political Declaration on Africa's Development Needs[3] – into the SDG framework.

136. Countries in special situations need continued international support to overcome structural impediments to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

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[3] http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/adn/A-63-L1.pdf.

137. In addition to poverty eradication, among common priorities of many countries in special situations are: economic diversification, structural transformation and strengthened productive capacities; greater connectivity to the global economy; strengthened human resources and institutional capacities; health and social protection. Achieving these will require supporting domestic policies, enhanced means of implementation, as well as strengthened governance institutions.

138. Many countries in special situations – as well as other countries – are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. SIDS in particular place a high priority on conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas.

139. Middle income countries face the challenge of inequality, and the difficulty of building the innovative capacities, human capital, and well-functioning institutions to sustain transition to high-income status.

Human rights, the right to development, global governance

140. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for equitable and sustainable development.

141. It was underlined that human rights are universal and interdependent, encompassing civil, political, social, economic, environmental and cultural rights. Human rights are cross-cutting and must be mainstreamed rather than being the subject of a stand-alone goal. The rights of women are centrally important in all domains.

142. It was emphasized that the post-2015 framework should ensure a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights.

143. It was further emphasized that the right to development must be clearly and centrally reflected in the post-2015 framework, with many calling for full implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

144. There is need to ensure that the human rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized are upheld, including indigenous peoples, migrants and persons with disabilities, as well as to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including against women and girls, and to promote economic and legal empowerment of the poor, of vulnerable groups and of women.

145. Good governance at all levels based on human rights, rule of law, democracy, access to justice and to information, transparency and

accountability, and peaceful and non-violent societies is an enabler of sustainable development.

146. There is a need to strengthen policy coherence between development policies and human rights and to ensure that business globally respects fundamental human rights, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

147. An effective global governance framework that is rules-based, non-discriminatory and democratic is needed to manage and reconcile actions of multiple actors. Global governance arrangements should promote the equal chances for development of all people, and mobilize collective action to protect and manage the global commons.

148. The reform of the international financial and economic architecture should continue to promote inclusiveness and adequate voice and representation of developing countries.

149. The role of United Nations in global governance remains central but needs to be strengthened and rendered more effective if it is to play a central role in achieving sustainable development as well as human rights.

150. The United Nations system must play a key role with regard to ensuring effective monitoring of progress and accountability of all stakeholders towards shared sustainable development goals, and in this regard the high-level political forum should have a crucial role.

Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport

151. The world is rapidly urbanizing, and cities pose both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. Many cities are already leaders in sustainability and climate change action and the SDGs could aim to support their efforts.

152. Cities are organically linked with surrounding peri-urban and rural areas, with people, knowledge, income, goods and services flowing in both directions. SDGs should aim at balanced territorial development such that sustainable urbanization enhances well-being of rural populations.

153. While the inclusion of an urbanization-related goal in the SDGs was supported by many, others considered that it could be captured at the target level or under a goal on sustainable infrastructure development. The cross-cutting nature of

sustainable cities and human settlements was stressed, calling for an integrated approach addressing linkages with other sustainable development issues.

154. Key factors contributing to sustainable cities and urban development are forward-looking, integrated urban planning, including effective protection of public spaces and spatial planning; adequate provision of affordable housing; infrastructure development to support planned urbanization and rural-urban integration; sound finances to support provision of affordable and accessible public services and to provide social protection; policies that promote economic dynamism, small-business formation and formal sector job creation.

155. Social inclusion was emphasized as an integral part of sustainable urbanization. This calls for sustainable provision to vulnerable and marginalized groups of access to safe, affordable and accessible basic services. The rapid growth of slum populations remains a major challenge for many developing country cities,

156. Sustainable transport is crucial for all three dimensions of sustainable development. The importance of its inclusion in SDGs was recognized, with many calling for it to be included at the level of targets under other goals. The importance of road safety was highlighted.

157. Many called for the SDGs to ensure access to safe, predictable, affordable and environmentally friendly forms of transportation for all. This entails avoiding unnecessary transport with smarter land use planning and improved access to ICT; shifting to public transportation systems, rail and waterway freight modes and safe, convenient, non-motorized transport where appropriate; improving environmental performance of existing forms of transport through innovation, the application of ICT, and improved engineering and design.

158. While realizing its important economic and social benefits, there is a pressing need to reduce negative impacts of transportation, such as adverse health effects from air pollution and casualties and injuries in traffic accidents and rapidly growing greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector.

Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste)

159. Many called for the implementation of the Rio+20 decision on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), noting that the 10YFP and the SDGs

could be mutually reinforcing. A number of countries called for early and generous contributions to the 10YFP trust fund.

160. It was recalled that existing agreements that address SCP call on developed countries to lead the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, supporting others with their example and lessons learned. It was also noted that some developing countries are already among the leaders in areas like renewable energy and sustainable transport. SCP requires the involvement of all stakeholders, and the private sector can play an important role.

161. Improving efficiency of energy and resource use in production and changes in consumption patterns are both crucial to achieve sustainable development.

162. The cross-cutting nature of SCP was well recognized. While some delegations proposed a stand-alone goal on SCP, others favoured the incorporation of SCP under relevant goals in specific areas such as energy, water, food and agriculture, infrastructure, cities, industrialisation, and sustained and inclusive growth.

163. It was suggested that a resource productivity target could distinguish between absolute decoupling in developed countries and relative decoupling in developing ones. Reduction in per capita energy consumption was proposed by some as a target for developed countries. Reduction in waste along the food supply chain – in production and consumption processes -- was also proposed.

164. On sustainable consumption, many emphasized the need to change consumption patterns through a combination of measures including awareness raising, consumer information, and appropriate pricing and regulation. Non-discriminatory sustainable procurement policies and criteria were also cited as an important instrument, one that could build markets for sustainable products. Raising standards of energy efficiency in buildings and other energy-using infrastructure and products was also mentioned.

165. On sustainable production, actions that could potentially lend themselves to targets include increasing the numbers of products and services with sustainability standards and labelling, and increasing company reporting on sustainability performance. While labelling and certification schemes can be helpful in guiding and shaping consumer choices towards sustainable

consumption, care and capacity building are needed to avoid disadvantaging developing country producers, especially SMEs.

166. It was noted that sustainability of products and services should start at the design phase using a life-cycle approach. Then products can be designed to end not as waste but as material for recovery, recycling and reuse.

167. Many delegations noted that the poor and the vulnerable are the first victims of harmful chemicals, some of which can persist over long periods of time. Sound management of chemicals based on the precautionary principle can contribute to implementation of other SDGs, such as health, access to clean water, oceans, biodiversity, food security, and sustainable cities.

168. It was highlighted that many developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, need capacity building and technology transfer to manage chemicals and waste sustainably. The illegal waste trade such as dumping of e-waste has to be halted.

169. Reference was made to the need to reaffirm commitments to relevant Conventions relating to chemicals and waste; the SAICM target for 2020 was proposed as a reference point for any possible SDG target relating to chemicals.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction

170. The urgency of action on climate change and disaster risk reduction was widely acknowledged. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without tackling climate change which can destroy ecosystem services and support functions and thus seriously jeopardize social and economic development gains in the years and decades to come.

171. Climate change poses a threat to human life, health and well-being through, among others, impacts on extreme weather patterns, food security, water availability and management, disease and pest control, coastal communities and ecosystems, and indeed even the survival of some countries. The exposure of SIDS, LDCs and Africa as well as other countries to the impacts of climate change was highlighted.

172. Many delegations stated that climate change, as one of the biggest challenges of our time, has to be addressed centrally in the SDGs. It was broadly agreed that, however climate change features, we will need to respect the provisions and principles of the UNFCCC

and the ongoing negotiations towards a strong and effective agreement in 2015.

173. Several supported targets that reflect the challenges of addressing climate change in terms of building resilient infrastructure and human settlements, protecting forests, sustainable energy, food security, water management, SCP, and promoting low carbon and climate resilient development. Inclusion of the below 2°C warming target as a guardrail was recommended.

174. The poorest are most at risk from climate change and natural disasters of all kinds, including slow-onset events like desertification and drought. Women represent a disproportionate number of the poor and often suffer the consequences of climate change the most. Women in rural areas in developing countries are often highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood and therefore more vulnerable to droughts, floods and land degradation.

175. The inter-connected nature of risks posed by climate change and disasters was recognized. Strong actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation are among the most effective means of reducing disaster risks. Without such actions, the frequency and intensity of, and the vulnerability to, disasters will only intensify in coming years and decades.

176. Proposals were made for targets on disaster risk reduction, including to reduce by a significant degree the severity of impacts as measured by economic losses as well as loss of lives and livelihoods.

177. Tools are available to address disasters, in particular the Hyogo Framework for Action, and mention was made of the need for an ambitious follow-up framework.

178. Countries need to think and act in terms of managing systems to reduce disaster risks and build resilience. In this context, there are three interrelated tasks: risk prevention through development pathways that minimise risk generation; risk reduction; and fostering resilience by improving the ability to deal with shocks of all kinds.

179. There is need for a range of solutions, including access to technology and information systems for early warning and disaster management, and enhanced stakeholder capacities at all levels. The role of good governance, the responsibility to future generations, and the need to incorporate lessons learned from

indigenous and local knowledge in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction were recognized.

Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity

180. The role of oceans and seas, forests and biodiversity as Earth's life-support systems was widely recognized, and many stressed the crucial part that they play in poverty eradication, global food security, human health, and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs.

181. Some proposed a comprehensive goal to enhance the benefits of ecosystems and biodiversity for all which could adopt an integrated approach and address vital aspects in the sustainable management and use of natural resources, including oceans and seas, forests, desertification and land degradation, and biodiversity. Others advocated stand-alone goals on oceans and seas, and biodiversity, respectively. It was also mentioned that, given the dependence of other areas on the health of these ecosystems, relevant targets and indicators could be integrated into other goal areas such as food security and nutrition, water, and sustainable livelihoods.

182. It was presented that the majority of ocean and sea ecosystems are on the brink of collapse. On oceans and seas, a range of serious threats to their functioning were mentioned, including: marine pollution including marine debris; disposal of waste and tailings at sea and along coasts; climate change and its impacts such as sea-level rise; ocean acidification caused by CO_2 emissions; unsustainable extraction of marine resources, such as overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and destructive fishing practices; and harmful subsidies that incentivize these unsustainable activities.

183. Forests are key sources of wood and other forest products, water supplies, medicines, livelihoods, ecosystem stability, carbon storage and other vital services. They host most of the biodiversity on land. It was observed that governments have too seldom struck the proper balance between the livelihood and economic benefits of timber extraction and forest conversion, on the one hand, and the multiple benefits of forest conservation, on the other. Action was called for to make forests more valuable standing than cut.

184. It was highlighted that the poor and vulnerable groups are often disproportionately affected by the consequences of unsustainable

management of natural resources. The need to recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers, and their knowledge and vital role in sustainable forest management, was noted.

185. On biodiversity many referred to its contributions directly and indirectly to the well-being of both current and future generations. A number of drivers of its loss were mentioned, such as climate change, CO_2 emissions, land use change, and overexploitation of resources. Among them, deforestation is a major source of land-based biodiversity loss. Modern agriculture has also witnessed a worrisome reduction in crop genetic diversity. Overfishing, pollution and habitat alteration including from ocean acidification are major stressors of marine biodiversity. SDGs should help in slowing and reversing biodiversity loss.

186. The need to recognize the living value of species beyond their commodity values was highlighted. Several examples of efforts by governments and other stakeholders to protect valuable flora and fauna were mentioned, for example, creation of biosphere reserves, protected areas on land, in coastal zones and on the high seas, including no-catch zones.

187. Many referred to extant international legislation and voluntary instruments that govern oceans and seas, forests and biodiversity – including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Nagoya Protocol and Aichi Targets, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, and the United Nations non-legally-binding instrument on all types of forests – suggesting that goals and targets in the SDGs should be supportive of these agreements, ideally catalysing action for more effective implementation.

188. The governance of the high seas and the management of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, particularly access and equitable sharing of benefits, were raised by some.

189. Scientific understanding of the health and functioning of a range of ecosystems has greatly advanced in recent years and the importance of science-based policy making, partnerships and multi-stakeholder participation were repeatedly underlined as important enablers for effective implementation of sustainable management of natural resources.

190. Many mentioned the importance of education, capacity building, technology transfer and financing in relation to the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment

191. With respect to promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment, concerns were voiced by many about the wide and in some respects widening inequalities among social groups as well as between countries. Rising inequalities pose a risk to social cohesion and can also hamper growth.

192. Regarding inequalities among social groups, some of the relevant actions to reduce income and other type of inequalities include: anti-discrimination laws and policies, affordable access to quality education, social protection, health care, as well as productive and remunerative employment opportunities, including encouragement of entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises. Economic policies can have an important role to play in relation to promoting greater equality of outcomes, notably to the extent that they support full employment along with price stability and use the taxing and spending powers of government to mitigate effects on inequality of markets.

193. Many noted that the SDGs should give particular attention to marginalized and vulnerable groups, which should be included in decision-making processes that affect their well-being, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth, and the elderly. It was noted that persons with disabilities tend to be in many societies the marginalized among the marginalized.

194. Inequalities between countries are the major form of income inequality in the world, even if in the new millennium the gap between some developing countries and the developed world has been narrowing. An international enabling environment supporting equalizing growth, that is, differentially high growth rates in poorer countries to enable them to catch up with higher income countries' living standards, should be a shared objective.

195. Gender inequality was recognized as a pervasive form of inequality. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is not only a matter of human rights; it is also a fundamental condition for sustainable social and economic development. There was widespread support for a two-track approach: a stand-alone goal on gender equality, supplemented by cross-cutting targets under other goals.

196. Women's economic empowerment should be based on addressing the structural causes of inequality by, inter alia, enhancing their voice in decision making in households, communities and

political life; ensuring their access to resources and assets such as land, finance and inheritance; as well as ending violence against women. More equal distribution of unpaid work within households frees girls' and women's time to pursue education and paid employment opportunities as appropriate. Similarly, women's empowerment can have major benefits for their families' and children's health, nutrition, and education.

197. Many referred to the need to respect and fulfil the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals, including access to sexual and reproductive health information, education, and services. Others did not agree and stressed that the SDG framework should be based on what has previously been agreed upon on this front, and referred to the need to be consistent in this regard with the ICPD agreement and the Rio+20 Outcome document.

Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance

198. It was highlighted by many that peace, rule of law, and governance are both ends in themselves and enablers for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

199. Some called for peace, rule of law, and governance to be reflected in goal form, as well as in a cross-cutting manner, while others wished to see them reflected as enablers in the overall post-2015 development agenda. It was stressed that the Rio+20 Outcome document should serve as the main reference point when formulating the SDGs.

200. Conflict is development in reverse. Peaceful societies provide the basis for sustainable development. Severe inequalities of power, voice, opportunity and wealth among different income groups as well as ethnic and other identity groups are among the sources of conflict, as are competition over natural resource wealth, transnational crime and illicit arms trade among others.

201. Citizens' need for personal security is universal, and lack of security has a harmful impact on all dimensions of development.

202. Many referred to rule of law and development as inter-related and mutually reinforcing. Rule of law touches on a range of sustainable development areas, including by: furthering inclusive economic growth through protection of land, property and other resource use rights; providing access to fair and responsive justice systems; guaranteeing legal identity; and facilitating efficient

provision of public services. It was also pointed out that the rule of law has developed subject to national conditions and particularities, and the need to respect national ownership was emphasized.

203. Governance, including open and effective and accountable institutions, participatory decision making and transparency were identified as key enablers of sustainable development. Action in this area could promote public access to information and enhance openness of government, as well as fostering trust in government institutions. Promoting participatory governance, including inclusive economic governance and equity, can also contribute to the emergence of peaceful and resilient societies, conflict prevention and dispute resolution.

204. Many countries highlighted the international dimension of the rule of law, including through reforms of international organizations in order to increase the legitimacy, transparency, accountability and representation of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

205. It was noted that the tools and indicators for measuring progress in this cluster have advanced greatly in recent years and, even though capacity-building and assistance would be required, measurability is not an insurmountable obstacle to the cluster's inclusion in the SDG framework.

Chapter IV

The Way Forward

206. At the conclusion of its stocktaking phase, the OWG has turned over much fertile ground. Many useful ideas and proposals have been shared by all, Member States, other stakeholders and invited experts alike, which can serve as a solid basis for commencing the consensus building phase of our work with a view to agreeing a proposal on SDGs and targets for submission to the General Assembly according to the agreed schedule.