



NGO Major Group position on the OWG “Priority Areas” Document

The NGO Major Group reflects on the OWG Co-Chairs’ “Priority Areas” document (released 21/02/14) with the following brief statements.

OVERARCHING CONCERNS

- The OWG paper does not seem to subscribe to the principle that the post-2015 Sustainable Development framework should be a **universal** framework.
 - Many issues of concern in higher income countries (both HICs and many MICs) are missing, such as obesity in the section on nutrition.
 - It is highly unfortunate that industrialised countries are mentioned specifically – and only – in the context of SCP since this reconfirms an impression that other areas concern them less. On the contrary, there is much that all countries can do in all focus areas.
 - The work of the OWG going forward should clearly state that the post-2015 Sustainable Development framework should be universal.
- The paper fails to take a **human and planetary well-being** approach:
 - The human rights principles of **participation** and **empowerment** are only addressed in a light-touch manner, with few concrete proposals for how respect of these principles would be improved, while **accountability** is entirely missing. Rigorous, independent and effective accountability mechanisms will be crucial to ensuring that governments and other actors respect their commitments. A variety of mechanisms will likely be needed given the scope of a post-2015 framework, both at national and international levels.
 - We would encourage that the text to a greater extent includes considerations on **peoples participation in decision making processes**, as exclusion of social groups and communities from the decision making processes contributes towards their voices not being listened to and their needs not being met. The same apply to the least developed countries who will not be able to engage with and influence international regulatory institutions and systems i.e. WTO;
 - The paper does not address the **human rights obligations** of all actors (including the private sector), ie. the need for all to respect human rights and for states to progressively realise the rights of their people.
 - Climate change is insufficiently addressed *throughout* the paper and issues such as **DRR** are missing.
 - The critical issue of **planetary boundaries** is overlooked or undermined.
- The paper does not question the **prevailing economic paradigms** which nonetheless serve to entrench or deepen poverty and inequality and only work in the interests of a few.
- **Private sector accountability** is missing. Indeed, the private sector is conspicuous by its absence in the paper. Given the size and power of many multi-national and trans-national companies, some measures should be envisaged to restrict the potential harm that they cause in both human and environmental terms.
- While we appreciate the effort to recognise the **interlinkages** between the various elements of a future framework, not only does this not go far enough, but some areas might even be in conflict with each other. For example, how would a framework prioritise both



industrialisation and economic growth on the one hand and SCP, climate change and biodiversity on the other? Indeed, it may be necessary to recognise in creating these interlinkages that the actions required per focus area work ‘in opposite directions’.

- Enabling factors such as **policy coherence for (sustainable) development** have not been addressed.

Comments per focus area:

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

1) POVERTY ERADICATION

- NGOs commend the document for including **eradication of poverty as an overriding priority** and a necessary condition for sustainable development.
- We also applaud the idea of providing social protection to reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, including children, youth, unemployed, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and local communities and older persons. And the eradication of poverty in all its forms: absolute poverty; relative poverty; inequalities at both national and international levels

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- It will be important to reduce the gap between rich and poor both in individual countries and between countries if inequality is to be addressed. “Lifting up the poor” cannot be achieved without bringing the extreme wealth and consumption down. This is rather a political approach (i.e. power relations) than an economic one.
- A poverty focus area should be broadened to encompass **well-being** if the multi-dimensional nature of poverty is to be addressed. It does not suffice to say that it will be dealt with by the other areas of the framework since using that logic a goal on poverty would not actually be necessary, it would suffice to measure that poverty has been reduced by all the provisions of the framework working together. Indeed the provisions of this focus area do fit perfectly comfortably (and are included) elsewhere, so this is superfluous.
- It would be an improvement if **control over productive resources**, would be mentioned along side access to resources and finance, as control over productive resources is critical to change the social status of the poor. Providing secure and continued access to productive assets, and in particular livestock, working animals, tools and seeds, is an effective means to eradicate poverty.
- Focus on empowering the poor to take **charge of their own development** is missing.
- The Rio+20 Outcome Document stresses that **disaster risk reduction must be embedded in poverty reduction strategies** if they are not to be derailed by shocks and stresses.
- Eradicating poverty should be underpinned by the **human rights-based approach and redistributive justice**.
- Respecting protection and promotion of all human rights (in particular ESC rights) by the States as a means to fight poverty: access to health, work, food, education...On the contrary a narrow focus on aid and an **economic model rooted in a private sector led growth** will not be able to reduce inequalities, but instead will contribute to its expansion.



The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

2) FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- NGOs commend the Co-Chairs for proposing a focus area on Food Security and Nutrition and for the recognition of the importance of increasing agricultural productivity sustainably.
- We strongly support the inclusion of targets that refers **to food loss and waste** and also the promotion of **sustainable farming practices, which must include sustainable livestock systems**, as agreed in the Rio+20 outcome document (paragraph 112). It's also very important that the SDGs prioritize **strengthening resilience of farming systems** and food supplies to climate change and disasters. Such resilience is strengthened through sustained efforts **to protect farming productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds**.
- NGOs also strongly support promoting indigenous and sustainable farming systems and boosting of agricultural production but notes that to do this sustainably **it will be necessary to redirect the agricultural efficiency focus away from food production systems and towards food types (i.e. which food types are most efficient in terms of resource use and nutritional value)**.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- This section is very oriented towards developing countries and would be better re-named to reflect human rights language (for example, the term 'universal access to adequate food' covers both quantity and nutritious quality). It should also include language on equitable and sustainable food production systems since that is critical to the transformations the future framework must bring about, but is currently lost in the text.
- The paper should also address the harm that certain **agricultural practices** cause to the environment and their role in increasing **climate change** (rather than just increasing resilience to the latter) since agricultural activities are responsible for about 20% of all global greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Integrated water management** is also an essential element since agriculture places very heavy demands on water resources
- **Food security** for many small producers is under threat by the growing investment of large, often trans-national, agro-companies and financial market actors, often thanks to countries putting in place (not necessarily voluntarily) a "conducive regulatory environment" for foreign investment. The issue of **responsible agricultural investment** which is compliant with human rights standards and not only respects but also contributes to the achievement of the right to food must therefore be adequately addressed.
- We welcome the fact of addressing wastage in post-harvest crop losses and food waste along food supply chains. However, the **sustainability of the current system of food production and agricultural trade** (including import and export policies) in the light of planetary boundaries, threats to biodiversity and climate change must be better considered. This would require more emphasis put on re-localisation of economies and local food production systems, improved production and distribution capacity and stimulating consumer choice of varied and indigenous agricultural produce. This would in turn contribute to local economic development and make countries more resilient to world market shocks.



The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in this area

3) HEALTH AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

- We welcome the emphasis on improving healthy life expectancy as a shared ambition for all.
- We welcome the inclusion of the importance of advancing progress on the **MDGs** by ending preventable child and maternal deaths, expanding access to sexual and reproductive health, and preventing and treating communicable diseases including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs); achieving universal health coverage; addressing the need for stronger health systems supported by modern technologies; and addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs are a major issue that must be addressed in the SDGs as they are increasingly impacting low and middle-income countries. The emphasis on the health needs of persons with disabilities and ageing populations is especially important.
- Moreover, we are pleased to see the inclusion of areas such as **the elimination of harmful practices** and **ensuring affordable essential medicines** and notes in this regard that one key target in this regard would be **the phasing out of non-therapeutic, including preventative, use of antibiotics in the livestock sector**.
- Harmful practices should also be seen in a broad sense to include all those practices that affect both boys and girls, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and cutting, witchcraft rituals and others.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- As with other sections, **a rights-based approach to health** should underpin what is proposed and as such a commitment to equity must be at its core. Particular emphasis needs to be placed on reaching the poorest and most marginalised. In accordance with international human rights law, everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The **principles of equity and non-discrimination** demand that the post-2015 health agenda should aim for “zero-exclusion”, regardless of income, gender, age, health status, sexual orientation or identity, and other economic and social factors.
- While what needs to be achieved and addressed is clearly outlined in the current document the details about “**how**” will this be achieved and who will be responsible are clearly missing.
- A stronger emphasis on the **quality**, including the need to sufficiently resource the health sector, as well as the nature of the services to be provided (**promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative**) as well as the fact that they should also include **health information services** would be welcome. The target for access to health services has to ensure that the implementation at national and local level guarantees acceptable health services available in **sufficient quantity and of good quality**. Quality health services require public and community health systems that are sufficiently resourced with health workers able to **apply the values of universality, gender equality and non-discrimination**. They also require sufficient investment in health infrastructure, based on equal health needs, and that this is maintained in an efficient manner. We also encourage an explicit emphasis on the need to



support community health care delivery and community systems as an integral part of strong health systems.

- In addition, we recommend using the International Conference on Population and Development's preferred formulation "**sexual and reproductive health and rights**" to ensure an explicit focus on girls' and women's human right to access sexual and reproductive health information and services.
- We urge MS to have **communicable diseases, including zoonotic diseases**, as priorities under a health sustainable development goal. We strongly encourage the inclusion of a target to reduce the emergence of new **zoonotic** and **food-borne diseases** which have increased as farming methods have become more globalized and with industrial farming practices – often with profound negative environmental and animal welfare consequences and profound effects on the financial stability of healthcare systems.
- Another area that should be considered is the **prevention of new and emerging diseases**, including AMR or anti-microbial resistance, which is increasingly leading to prolonged illness and death. A recent international Chatham House conference referred to AMR as the new HIV/AIDS. We recommend the inclusion of targets/indicators that promotes the **phase-out of the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in intensive livestock production** to decrease the pace of the emergence of antibiotic resistant microbes.
- We also suggest considering the importance of scaling up **services for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders** – which account for 14 percent of the global burden of disease – in line with the WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). An explicit focus on adolescent health will help ensure that this vulnerable group is not overlooked as we shape the new agenda. We encourage the health focus areas be expanded to include health challenges and priorities including injuries; breastfeeding; and early childhood nutrition.
- Commitments related to determinants of health should have **indicators that clearly measure their health impact**.
- There is very little on **population dynamics** so it is unclear what the OWG is referring to here.
- There is no reference to the delivery of **health services during and after disasters**.
- The common risk factor for the 4 main NCDs is tobacco use. Implementing the measures of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's first public health treaty, is a proven and effective way to curb tobacco use and exposure around the world.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

4) EDUCATION

- We commend that the OWG paper takes a holistic approach to education and aims for universal access to quality education.
- Moreover, we are pleased to see the inclusion of areas such as **universal primary education** for girls and boys, significant progress towards ensuring a **secondary education** and the right to **lifelong education**.
- We welcome the **integration of sustainable development in education curricula**, including awareness-raising on how diverse cultures advance sustainable development. So too should basic knowledge of one's human rights.



- It is welcomed that the OWG paper underlines the importance of education for **gender equality**.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- Attention should be given to ensuring that the education sector is sufficiently resourced. Governments have the responsibility to provide **sufficient funding** for public education through progressive and fair **taxation**. Investments should also be directed to ensuring decent working conditions and improving **teachers' competences** through quality pre- and in-service training/professional development and matched by the appropriate tools and environments. Every student, irrespective of their social status, ethnic background or gender, has the right to be taught by a trained, qualified and well-supported teacher, and learn in safe educational institutions with **adequate infrastructure, facilities and resources**, including an appropriate student-teacher ratio.
- A mention of safe schools, as **violence against children** in schools is an issue that affects developed and developing countries, and achieving safe school environments will be fundamental to attain the desired outcomes of “universal primary education for girls and boys, significant progress [...]”.
- The paper should ensure impartation of knowledge and skills that contribute to the **growth of global citizenship** and that match the demands of the **labor market** and the prerequisites of **sustainable lifestyles**.
- Include interlinkage with other focus areas, such as poverty eradication, nutrition, health, gender equality, economic growth, employment, and sustainable consumption and production.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

5) GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- The NGO major group was pleased to see that the Gender equality and women's empowerment is a stand alone goal and that it takes into account priorities such as “ending violence against girls and women in all its forms”, equal opportunities for men and women; ensuring equal access to education at all levels; ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making; equal access to assets and resources; gender equality policies supported by gender disaggregated data etc. This is an issue that we fully support. However, we would encourage the wording to include ending **violence against all children**.
- We welcome the inclusion of **access to sexual and reproductive health and sexuality education**; to tackle root causes as well as guarantee the rights and social protection of migrant women in transit and host countries; taking urgent action for the precarious situation of female migrants, displaced women, and trafficked women and girls.



The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- Overall this section refers to many important issues that must be tackled to ensure gender equality, however there is a **lack of urgency** in the way in which this issue is presented (“...is important.” rather than “...is crucial”), and the paper could be strengthened greatly by recognising the structural importance of ensuring gender equality.
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment should be viewed as an ambition in itself, as well as a means to achieving sustainable development, deserving the political commitment and resources that a specific focus brings.
- The fact that gender equality and empowerment is not quoted in the area of **peace and security** is a major concern since the goal of eradicating gender based violences and participation in good governance is directly related to peace and security (see resolution 1325 UNO). Another example would be **sustainable cities and human settlements**: an important part of public services, housing, climate change resilience etc. has a local basis. Promotion of « gender disaggregated data » is not enough: it is necessary to implement gender budgeting for a gender mainstreaming of all policies and this at all level of governments including local authorities The absence of « rights »: « sexual and reproductive health » must be replaced by « sexual and reproductive rights and health ». The same remark applies to Focus area 3 « Health and population dynamics ». Since there have been backlashes on those issues (and others), a principle of non regression about women’s right should be adopted.
- The paper does not allude to the **predominance of women in the informal sector**, in insecure jobs (e.g. part-time) or the role of girls and women in the care economy or to how to address this. « Ensuring equal employment opportunities for women and equal pay for equal work » must be extended to informal work in which women are over represented, as well as domestic productive work (in agricultural activities for example). The work of care and non paid work done by women and girls must be mentioned and integrated in macro economy and sustainable development indicators.
- While it is positive that this section refers to women’s participation in decision making it could be strengthened by also referring to women’s influence in decision making, as access to participation, although a crucial first step, is not a guarantee for influence.
- The three areas in which women’s role needs to be examined are not clearly set out (ie. social or civic participation, economic and political).
- The paper lacks an explicit mention of **ending child marriage** as a fundamental means to empower women and girls.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

6) WATER AND SANITATION

- The NGO Major Group welcomes the publication of the focus area Water and Sanitation, and was pleased to see that the **whole water cycle** is taken into consideration.



- We were pleased to see that interlinkages were identified with regards to **poverty eradication, health and population dynamics and infrastructure**. The explicit recognition of a link between health and water and sanitation is particularly welcome. Diarrhoeal illnesses (predominantly caused by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene practice) are the third largest killer of children in Africa. We urge the open working group to maintain this link in future discussions.
- NGOs strongly support the inclusion of **improving water-use efficiency** as one of the areas for attention and notes that this issue should be considered together with enhanced efficiency in the agriculture sector. We note however that it will be necessary for the efficiency debate to move away from enhancing food system efficiency and instead consider the relative efficiency of different foodtypes.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- The paragraph does not include any reference to the **Human Right to Water and Sanitation**, as recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations in July 2010. We suggest that the new framework should be based on a **human rights-based approach**: in the water sector, it should focus on effectively implementing the human right to water and sanitation. Thus the definition of access to water, sanitation and hygiene in the post-2015 agenda must be based on the normative content of the human right to water and sanitation. This notably involves ensuring that these services are physically available and affordable to all, without discrimination, and that they are both sustainable and of suitable quality.
- Further we were concerned by the **lack of the inclusion of hygiene** in the focus area of water and sanitation. Without universal hygiene the benefits of safe water and sanitation are limited, hand-washing with soap and menstrual hygiene are transformative in saving lives and development. We therefore urge the OWG member states to include hygiene within the narrative of water and sanitation and ensure that this vital component of public health is not ignored.
- We are also concerned by the lack of acknowledgement of water and sanitation in three particular focus areas:
 - Area 2: Whilst the focus area of **food security and nutrition** mentions water it does not mention **sanitation or hygiene**. Fecal to oral transmission of disease, results in repeated diarrhea, one of the prime causes of malnutrition and under nutrition, hence universal sanitation is critical in order to improve nutrition.
 - Area 4: The **education focus area** does not acknowledge the role that **water, sanitation and hygiene** plays. This is particularly prevalent when schools do not have running water or toilets for students and staff.
 - Area 5: The **Gender equality and women's empowerment** focus area, whilst acknowledging water as an inter-linkage, fails to include **sanitation and hygiene** both of which are critical. The lack of or poor sanitation puts women especially at risk of violence. Hygiene is particularly relevant for women and girls that are repeatedly held back or excluded from society as they no means to hygienically manage menstruation.



- In parallel to the evaluation of access to drinking water and sanitation, the **number of States which recognize the right to water access** and the methods and processes to evaluate the effective participation of citizens, are essential data.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

7) ENERGY

The NGO Major Group is pleased to see energy as a specific area, as a domestic need.

We welcome the intention to phase out insufficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, would however prefer to speak of **inefficient** fossil fuel subsidies since all fossil fuel subsidies need to be phased out.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- The paragraph does not include that access to **sufficient** and **sustainable** energy resources must be ensured for all and how this can be achieved.
- We also urge to include actions to **reduce energy use in absolute terms** in order to fit into environmental space. The rate of reduction shall be determined in line with scientific recommendations, among others taking into account the tough contraction and convergence scenario of the Decoupling Report of UNEP's International Resource Panel focusing on fossil fuels, minerals, metals and biomass. This scenario requires far-reaching absolute resource use reductions in the industrialized countries, by a factor of 3 to 5. Countries classified as 'developing' in the year 2000 would have to achieve 10–20% reductions in their average metabolic rates. This is consistent with the 2.2 tons of carbon per capita recommended by the IPCC as the convergence point that could prevent warming by more than 2 degrees centigrade.
- We further suggest a necessary order of energy savings, efficiency and renewable.
 1. **Energy saving:** Saving in this case means saving over and beyond technical and technological efficiency solutions – or to put it simple: it is the energy saved by not using it at all.
 2. **Energy efficiency:** When the full potential of energy saving has been used, further opportunity is given by energy efficiency.
 3. **Energy substitution:** Improving efficiency should be followed by the substitution of non-renewable energy resources with renewables, but sound indicators renewable energy resources should be developed in order to use only those, which meet certain sustainability criteria.
- “Modern” energy could potentially include **nuclear energy** (not least because of its low emissions). It would therefore be advisable to rather speak of **clean and renewable** forms of energy, since nuclear energy is one of the forms that should be eradicated.
- **Energy wastage** should be addressed as well as energy efficiency – by all actors.
- We also missed **specific policy options for energy supply** (differentiation should be based on scientific adequacy and on the equity reference framework): energy savings policies to



reduce the demand, policy package for cleaner fossil fuel use and subsidies removal, apply RES for transport; decentralized RES for electricity etc.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

8) ECONOMIC GROWTH

Are sections on economic growth AND industrialisation AND infrastructure really necessary? Could they not more usefully be combined into **one economic development section**?

The section on economic growth, read in combination with the section on industrialisation and infrastructure, betrays a complete failure to recognise that current models of growth and industrialisation negate basic notions of sustainability. If industrialised countries continue to aspire to increasing levels of growth in direct competition with the aspirations of industrialising countries to accelerate growth rates, ambitions to address climate change, protect the environment and restore biodiversity will remain empty rhetoric.

While economic development may contribute to progress, it is **not** the case that economic growth directly translates into shared prosperity or prosperity for all. This has been proven not to be the case. Indeed, other factors may contribute equally to progress, such as companies paying the taxes they owe in the country of operation, thereby increasing a country's own domestic resources. Sustained growth in perpetuity is not only incompatible with the objectives of SCP, but is unrealistic for many countries (including most HICs). Sustained growth is also very different from sustainable growth.

We thus suggest one economic development section containing the following issues:

- It would be invaluable to have less reliance on 'business as usual' and more on **reform of economic structures, financial systems, trade and the global governance system**. We need to prepare for prosperity without the obligation of economic growth and emphasise growth in non-material domains such as knowledge, culture and science. GDP measures of development need to be replaced with broader measures of human well-being.
- There are no proposals on how to **avoid future economic and financial crises**.
- The paper fails to address the need to incorporate the **real cost of production** in human and environmental terms – without which it will be impossible to tackle SCP or environmental degradation and climate change.
- The responsibility of the **private sector** to contribute to Sustainable Development is not addressed, thereby failing to take into account the growing call for international to secure human rights obligations for the private sector. We demand an international regulatory framework for corporations with minimum social and environmental standards, ensuring that they pay their fair share of taxes and cannot achieve monopoly positions.
- It would be crucial to understand more what the OWG might be implying by **productivity** – since increasing labour productivity could conflict with increasing (or full) employment.



The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

9) INDUSTRIALISATION

We would recommend the removal of this whole section given its incompatibility with the objectives of other focus areas, such as climate change and SCP. The ‘structural transformation *of* industrialisation’ would be more important than ‘through’ industrialisation.

It is not clear that the proposals included would indeed meet the needs of the developing countries they clearly target, given the reality of climate change, resource constraints and inequitable access to resources. This section reads from a 1960s perspective and not one of the twenty-first century looking to a future in which we are pushing past planetary boundaries in a number of areas and are close to doing so in still more.

What should be included:

- regulation of transnational corporations
- ending tax evasion
- ensuring debt sustainability
- facilitating international technology cooperation and technology transfer
- taking into account the depletion of natural resources and their renewal
- ensuring a fair distribution of economic growth

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

10) INFRASTRUCTURE

- This section is entirely repetitive of proposals in other focus areas.
- Only very limited mention of ICT’s only relating to connectivity. Also need to ensure community access beyond simple connectivity, broadband access, and literacy

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

11) EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

- The NGO Major Group is pleased to see that youth unemployment is addressed as well as the encouragement of a “transition from informal sector to formal sector employment.”

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- **Universal and minimum social protection** is a key element of the decent work agenda, but missing from the OWG paper. It is also crucial to achieve other aspects of a future framework (to which the OWG paper subscribes) such as gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment. Furthermore, the fact of providing “social security for those retired from the labour force” will likely leave out all those people who worked in the **informal sector or in the ‘care economy’** – most of whom are women.



- It would be interesting if the OWG would consider incentives for the private sector to create **jobs in line with the goals of a 100% renewable and sustainable future** and to ensure that the enabling environment is guaranteed for micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Thought should also be given to corporate accountability towards the decent work agenda.
- The worst forms of **child labour** are not mentioned (which is an issue that affects 85 million boys and girls throughout the world) and the eradication of which will be fundamental in achieving the desired outcomes in terms of youth employment and formal sector employment, as well as compliance with ILO conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Children.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

12) PROMOTING EQUALITY

- The NGO Major Group welcomes the “Empowering and inclusion of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth,”. The participation of children in the decisions that affect their lives is a fundamental principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that should be upheld.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- This section is particularly weak since it lacks any proposals on **how** inequalities would be addressed in practice, or how marginalised groups would be empowered.
- The paper does not address the need to tackle the gaps between **rich and poor**, by also focusing on those who have more, not just on those who have the least. Redistribution of wealth requires extreme wealth eradication, too.
- This section mentions a number of examples of groups exposed to inequality, but does surprisingly not mention **women and girls**. While it is strongly welcomed that the OWG paper includes a separate section on gender, it is also necessary gender concerns are mainstreamed and therefore women and girls should be specifically mentioned here.
- **Disaggregation of data** along a number of lines (income, gender, age, disability, social status, urban/rural setting etc) will be critical if the more marginalised people are to be reached.
- An **equity weighting** in favour of actions towards the most marginalised could be considered.
- This section should focus on **respect, protection and promotion of all human rights**, as well as access to an effective **remedy for human rights violations**.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

13) SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND SETTLEMENTS

- The NGO Major Group was pleased to see this area maintained as a goal for a systemic and territorial approach.
- NGOs strongly endorse the references to **building resilient societies** and **strengthening resilience to natural disasters**. Such resilience is largely based on the continued ability of communities and cities to sustain livelihoods, food security, public health systems, etc. even when confronted with a natural disaster.



The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

This section focused almost exclusively on urbanization and cities, while **community building** for sustainability and **solidarity in small and medium neighbourhoods** and communities was neglected.

We would like to see the following:

- Develop strong and accountable institutions: **Effective decentralization** and strengthening of local authorities
- Improved democratic local governance, with principles of **self-governance and participatory democracy**
- **Culture** as driver and enabler of development and people-centered societies

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

14) SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- The NGO Major Group welcomes **education for sustainable lifestyles**. Education for sustainable lifestyles should include a proper appreciation of our environment and the ecosystems in which we exist as our interaction with our environment directly affects our ability to sustainably use the resources available to us. The reference to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP is appropriate and the call for adequate resourcing is welcome.
- We are pleased to see the direct references to **sustainable supply chains, reducing waste in food production and consumption**. We note however that to secure the sustainability of supply chains an integrated approach is needed that takes into account all elements that feed into the supply chain (water, energy, land, etc.) and that the issue of efficiency is approached at that same level of integration rather than at the level of the individual systems in each of the supply chain elements.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- This should not just be about the sustainability of consumption, with an assumption that consumption can continue growing; rather this needs to focus much more on **changing lifestyles, reducing consumption** (of energy, of water and other resources, of food, material goods etc) and completely reviewing and reconfiguring models of production (eg. to shorten supply chains) and business models (leasing, sharing,..). All countries will need to work on this immediately, with perhaps the greatest changes occurring in HICs and some MICs. However, if we wait until industrialised countries have shown the way, it will be too late to make the degree of (urgent) change we need.
- The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP is a starting point, but lacks **concrete targets, timetables and indicators**. The SDG process should support SCP by setting such targets, timetables and indicators, in this way also making links with major goals that tackle specific environmental and social concerns. For example, promoting sustainable public procurement would be greatly helped with a **clear international commitment** laid down in an SDG target under SCP (e.g. By 2020, all governments have introduced national sustainable public procurement policies for all levels of public authorities. By 2030, all public procurement is characterised by effective sustainability criteria.).



We therefore urge this section to address:

- Methods to reduce overconsumption and excessive marketing
 - Develop and promote an ethical basis for sustainable lifestyles (being content with little/less)
 - Facilitate access through business to efficient, productive and friendly environmental technologies
 - Develop systemic economic models
 - Apply lifecycle thinking
 - Promote economy of functionality
 - Penalize programmed obsolescence
 - Acknowledge the diversity of lifestyles
- It's important that there's a **SCP approach towards all sectors**, including agriculture. In the livestock sector for instance the emphasis has been and still is on the production side through intensification, enhanced resource efficiency and technology use. This has had serious negative consequences for animal welfare on a global scale but also has not made the sector more sustainable (as UNEP finds that, on the current trajectory, the livestock sector alone will produce 70% of the sustainable level of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050). Moreover, the costs of intensification of the livestock sector for human health, rural development and livelihoods, biodiversity, etc. are currently not sufficiently taken into account when assessing the sustainability of industrialized livestock production systems.
 - With regard to reducing waste in food production, we strongly argue for the adoption of animal welfare practices in transport and slaughter of livestock in particular as this can prevent a significant proportion of waste in the livestock production area.
 - **Reducing consumption and production of natural resources in absolute terms** in order to fit into environmental space. The rate of reduction of resource types shall be determined in line with scientific recommendations, among others taking into account the tough contraction and convergence scenario of the Decoupling Report of UNEP's International Resource Panel focusing on fossil fuels, minerals, metals and biomass. This scenario requires far-reaching absolute resource use reductions in the industrialized countries, by a factor of 3 to 5. Countries classified as 'developing' in the year 2000 would have to achieve 10–20% reductions in their average metabolic rates. This is consistent with the 2.2 tons of carbon per capita recommended by the IPCC as the convergence point that could prevent warming by more than 2 degrees centigrade.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

15) CLIMATE

We note the importance of the reference to **building resilience and adaptive capacity** in developing countries but wonders why this reference is restricted to developing countries as resilience and adaptive capacity are crucial to all nations.



The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

The section does not pay due attention to the specific needs of those countries that are the most adversely effected by climate change and without adequate means at their disposal to adapt to climate change and deal with its impacts.

- The language “**reinforce and reaffirm international commitments**” is unhelpful because current international commitments are weak in terms of the changes needed to stay below a 1.5°C temperature rise nor are they in line with science.
- In addition to limiting the increase in global average temperature through equitable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, it is crucial to ensure we stay within the remaining **global carbon budget**.
- Actions to reduce, mitigate and adapt to climate change should be included in all goal areas.
- We regret that there was no reference to **agriculture and/or livestock production** in this part of the text. According to the FAO, when considering the entire food chain, meat production accounts for 14.5 per cent of the world’s GHG emissions.
- Also missing from the section on climate change was any reference to the role of climate change in the increasing occurrence of **natural disasters** and the effect of such disasters on sustainable development.
- We were disappointed to see a reduced emphasis on DRR in relation to Climate Change, when the Co-Chair’s summary document (February 14th) clearly recognised ‘the urgency of action on climate change **and disaster risk reduction** was widely acknowledged’. (169. Open Working Group Summary Document).

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

16) MARINE RESOURCES, OCEANS AND SEAS

- We welcome the inclusion of “**marine resources, oceans and seas**” as a priority focus area. In particular, we are pleased to see the references to: reducing **marine pollution and debris** including from land-based activities; **halting destruction of marine habitat** including ocean acidification; **addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**, and destructive fishing practices; **establishing Marine Protected Areas**.
- We strongly agree that under an Oceans goal both the issues of Ocean health and productive capacity need to be addressed though individual targets and we suggest that the **health and prevalence of marine top predators** is considered as perhaps the most effective and efficient indicator of Ocean health.
- We further stress that the issue of **by-catch** is considered under the area of destructive fishing practices and recommends that national marine litter monitoring programs as well as a functioning **end-of-life fishing nets disposal/recycling system** are crucial to achieve any target in the area of marine debris.



The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

- A future framework should recognise and support the very important contribution of **community-based fisheries management**.
- **Fishery-related traditions** and **traditional employment** need to be supported.
- We suggest to strengthening **global governance regimes** for areas beyond national jurisdiction to build confidence in such mechanisms.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

17) ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The NGO Major Group strongly supports the inclusion of the following elements:

- protecting threatened species and halting loss of biodiversity
- stopping poaching and trafficking of endangered species
- maintaining the genetic diversity of both farmed species and their wild relatives
- securing land and resource tenure
- participation of local communities in decision-making
- sharing of benefits and protecting indigenous knowledge

NGOs further stress the interlinkage that exists between **sustainable consumption** and **production and biodiversity** and suggests that the reframing of the efficiency debate in the area of food security and sustainable agriculture can make a large contribution to giving expression to this interlinkage.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

The NGO Major Group is concerned to note that the analysis for this focus area suggests that eco-systems provide services to humans and suggests that an approach based on a more **sybiotic relationship between humans and eco-systems**, including animals, will produce more sustainable outcomes.

- The forest elements need to become more precise and be turned into **concrete commitments** which can be monitored. The **Aichi Targets** can be an important source of inspiration (also because in this way these Targets will get additional political attention and support). In no way should these Targets be undermined, for example by postponing a date for the halt of deforestation.
- Given that demand for forest products will continue to increase, even if we practice more efficient and cascaded use and recycling, **sustainable forest management (SFM)** is a crucial part of the forest policies to promote. Investors, institutions and governments widely class industrial tree plantations and industrial logging, including clear-cutting as SFM. As such, SFM has arguably turned into a driver of forest destruction rather than a solution to it. As a “sustainable forest management” is not evident and needs discipline an agreement with all stakeholders, it is important to have an indicator that highlights the percentage of sustainably managed forests according to principles&criteria, such as those applied by the Forest Stewardship Council.



- The section should also recognise that **deforestation and conversion of forests** is not always for crop land but also for plantations, urbanisation, extractive industries, transport etc.
- Further this section should include: **slowing, halting and reversing ecosystems degradation and conversion of ecosystems to crop lands; restoring degraded ecosystems.**
- Overall, any **“net” goals or targets and funding for forests**, land degradation or other ecosystems were missing. The assumption that ecosystem or soil loss can be compensated financially or with ecosystem or soil restoration in another location is deeply flawed from a moral, scientific, and social justice perspective.
- The section should emphasise **good governance** more generally in terms of transparency of decision-making over natural resource use and access to environmental information.
- The section should reiterate the importance of **full implementation of existing international commitments and multilateral environmental agreements** related to biodiversity, land management and natural resources.
- We believe it would be very helpful to create **global mechanisms** to improve the equitable distribution and use of natural resources.
- Indicators regarding the total area of Indigenous territories and community conserved areas (ICCAs) that are legally recognized were missing.
- Human rights standard for indigenous and local communities is more important than “inclusion”, it is “effective participation”.

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

18) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The means of implementation deserves a priority focus in the Open Working Group's report. However, the value of a separate goal on this should be measured against the necessity to ensure that each goal is accompanied by a clear road-map of how it will be implemented and achieved. Moreover, a number of issues that are mentioned in this section (such as a rule-based trade system) and many that are not mentioned (such as regulation of finance, monetary system reform, IFI reform, a global agreement to tackle climate change accompanied by a legitimate and fair governance regime and sufficient finance) are in fact *pre-conditions* that require immediate action if countries are to embark on the journey to fulfill a new set of Sustainable Development Goals. For this, the Open Working Group must recognise that there are two dimensions to the means of implementation: those actions that are *immediately required* and those that should be put in place in the course of achieving the SDGs.

The NGO Major Group was pleased to see the following addressed in the area of

19) PEACEFUL AND NON-VIOLENT SOCIETIES, CAPABLE INSTITUTIONS

The NGO Major Group strongly supports the inclusion of the following elements:

- Creating peaceful, non-violent and inclusive societies, based on respect for all human rights including the right to development
- Equality within and between countries



- Effective, accountable and transparent institutions; improvement of transparency in public finances management; fighting corruption in all its forms
- Improved public access to information
- Inclusive, participatory decision-making; strengthening local governments; strengthening of civil society
- Provision of legal identity, provision of property, use and access rights, to all persons; providing access to independent and responsive justice systems

The NGO Major Group was disappointed to see and/or not see the following:

Peaceful and non-violent societies do not only depend on a number of political and civil rights being respected, so this title is somewhat misleading. For example, equitable access to resources, decent work and sharing the benefits of natural and mineral resource exploitation are also crucial in this.

- We were surprised that no mention of **regular, free, fair and democratic elections** is made, nor of the need for democratic scrutiny of the functioning of public bodies, given that this is one element that is crucial to ensuring peaceful societies.
- This section would be improved if it more clearly related to **just governance and the creation of stable, democratic institutions**.
- Since this is a universal framework, it would be welcomed if the OWG gave thought to how to **democratise international institutions** as well as national ones.
- This section should further **give youth a greater voice** in future decision processes.
- The OWG group should be more explicit about the need for a standalone goal to support **accountable, open and inclusive governance**, both at local and national as well as international levels. Transparent and accountable governance systems that are open to public engagement and scrutiny, and that have robust oversight institutions and mechanisms, are essential to ensure better outcomes in public spending and service delivery, as well as being central to human rights and dignity. These are clearly not only domestic issues, but should be principles underpinning global governance, as well as a global accountability and review mechanism for the SDG framework.
- We believe it would be very helpful to create mechanisms for **ethical assessment** of decision-making in governments and international institutions.
- Possible interlinkage: with biodiversity, concerning wildlife crime.