**Draft joint statement to be presented to OWG**

**Please submit your comments and sign onto the statement (organizations) at the end of this document by 2 pm (14:00) New York time on Wednesday 18 June**

**Please submit any additions or revisions in another color, and do not remove any text (use ~~strikethrough~~ to show what you prefer removed). Add a comment with your name to any revisions. Thank you.**

**Why it is essential to include a stand-alone goal on equality?**

We strongly oppose the removal of the Stand-alone Goal 10 on Equality. Addressing inequalities both within and between nations is a critically important goal in its own right. A large body of research now shows the various problems caused by inequality, ranging from crime and conflict through health and mental health problems, to <Priyan, ATREE>social discrimination, <TWP:>political marginalization and economic instability. Without a Stand-alone Goal on Equality, this important focus would be lost. We offer the following reasons, and will be happy to provide documentation to you upon request:

1. **The post 2015 agenda will be about headlines.** If inequality is NOT listed as a headline (as a standalone goal), then the reality of its importance will not be reflected in its implementation. ← I put this as number one *because* all the other points (which are correct, of course) do not argue directly against the main problem. The main problem we are trying to address is why it must be a stand alone and why it cannot be subsumed. It must be a stand alone because it is a main headline in report after report, country after country. - Daniel Perell, Baha’i International Community <Yes, this is crucial. But we must then show “the reality of its importance”, i.e. that the eradication of excessive inequalities really is of fundamental importance. Here the points below are helpful. I would stress two further points. (1) So long as the poorer half of humanity have only 3.3% of global income and an even much smaller share of global wealth, as well as greatly inferior education, health care and civil rights protection, it is very difficult for them to become full agents in their own emancipation. They will be sustainably liberated from deprivation only if they can fully participate in this liberation and defend it in the political realm. In this way, the achievement of all development goals depends on an empowerment of the poor by reducing excessive social, economic and civil-rights inequalities. (2) Overcoming existing deprivations through global growth (leaving inequalities as they are or even allowing them get worse as they did in the period since the end of the Cold War) would take far too long -- at 2% real growth, the poorer half would take 35 years to double its real income -- and would also impose unsustainable environmental burdens as the richer half would then also double its income and consumption during the same period. (Thomas Pogge, Academics Stand Against Poverty)>

1. <Priyan, ATREE>~~Inequalities are often the primary underlying reason behind dangerous political unrest, protests, and conflict within nations.~~

2. Inequalities are identified as the primary threat to economic stability by the World Economic Forum in 2011. Recent OECD statements and other studies confirm the relationship between inequality and economic instability, including difficulties in recovering from economic crises.

3. Economic Inequality has been shown to be a barrier to economic growth within nations, as it blocks the circulation of wealth within the economy. Similarly, other structural inequalities are barriers in their own right: unequal access to education, and Life long learning for women and men healthcare, or justice limits the potential of all. - Daniel Perell, Baha’i International Community

4. Inequality has been shown to be one of the primary reasons for lack of development within nations. For example, a recent Brookings Institution study for the Africa Progress Report showed that wealth from resource extraction was not resulting in development due to inequalities.

 In another example, it is a known fact that inequality has widened the poverty gap between the poor and the rich in most developing countries of Africa,where the winner takes it all and the poor are excluded from the Countries’ wealth, social benefits, and the dividend of democracy of not felt by the poor.The political class, elite group, party supporters and their cohorts share and cat away their countries wealth as a result of inequality and its consequences. How can the poor and alienated participate in governance, how can their voice be heard, if inequality is not left as stand alone? The B2015 Agenda will not achieve its goal in such countries if inequality is removed as stand alone and the adverse impact of inequality(including morbidity and mortality, crime rate, corruption, illiteracy, unemployment and other vices will be worst in those countries, as well as have multiplier effect on the entire globe. By Florence C.Mbogu, Health Development Initiative, Nigeria.E-mail: florencembogu@yahoo.com;hdinitiativeng@yahoo.com.

5. Reducing economic inequalities within nations through transfers and other social spending has been shown to be the fastest, most effective and most efficient means of overcoming poverty.

6. A vast array of social ills are shown to be greatly aggravated by inequality, including crime rates, levels of mental illness, rates of physical health problems, teenagers dropping out of school, incarceration rates, lack of unity and trust, and more.

7. Inequalities between nations block solutions to climate change and other urgent global problems, because rich nations, as they have done so far, are unlikely to bear their responsibility and --Chandra Pandey nations with less wealth have no incentive to sign agreements that limit their own development, or force them to bear the same burdens as nations with more wealth. The disproportionate impacts of emerging global challenges such as climate change will significantly impact the poorest if the existing inequalities are not addressed.--Chandra Pandey.

8. If we constrain targets on inequality to Goal 1 THEN WE ARE EXPRESSING INEQUALITY IN PURELY ECONOMIC TERMS, IGNORING THE SOCIAL, RELATIONAL, ETC. (COMBINE 8 AND 10) on poverty, we cannot tackle the primary cause of inequality, which is extreme wealth. ← I would be careful here because one point is that we don’t want to limit equality to economic inequality (though I agree whole-heartedly with the point!). If we blame inequality on extreme wealth, then we are putting it back in that ‘less holistic’ frame. I might say, instead: Inequality is relational. Economic inequality, for example, is not driven by extreme poverty, but it is a result of forces driven by extreme wealth. - Daniel Perell, Baha’i International Community

9. **Without a goal on equality, civil society and those who suffer or recognize inequalities will never accept the new Sustainable Development Goals as a credible effort to foster socially, economically and environmentally sustainable societies. Global consultations consistently came back to this point, you cannot ignore this outcome.**

10. The most vulnerable, of all kinds, suffer various and often multiple inequalities including, but not limited to economic, political, social, and educational inequalities. These matters do not fit comfortably in any other goal and can only be addressed in a standalone fashion. ← once again, trying to explain why it must be a standalone goal, not only why it is vital. - Daniel Perell, Baha’i International Community

11. **One of Brazil’s arguments today was that goal 10 is one of the few goals where developed countries have a significant responsibility.** Removing this goal undercuts the balance and universality of the SDG set. PILLAR OF THE UNIVERSALISM OF THE AGENDA

Fabio Palacio, ATD Fourth World

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12. Including Equality as Stand-alone goal will ensure countries or groups of countries and individuals and groups of individuals to treat fairly and equally and no less favourably in areas of race, caste, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and ageEQUAL TREATMENT, NOT JUST $ - Pahlaj Moolio, Academia, PUC.

13. A stand-alone goal will enable context specific activities aimed at addressing inequality at country or regional level which will allow for monitoring and evaluation of severe inequalities in political and economic access throughout many countries and region. Many groups, including gender, ethnic, and income, are left without a way to influence decisions or take advantage of the resources and wealth that exist in their country or region. Because of this lack of equity, corruption reigns, democracy is thwarted, civil society influence is limited, and poverty is widespread. Anthony Akpan, Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE), Nigeria. Email: ajakpan@yahoo.com

14. Equity is at the centre of the social dimension of green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication - a new development paradigms. If equality is not at the centre of the goals being developed, how can these then be sustainable development goals?

Richard Osaliya, CRESUNA- Africa, email: osaliya@yahoo.com

15. **In the same way that literacy, education and poverty eradication are interdependent, inequality and the eradication of hunger need to be considered as separate but critically co-dependant targets.** Given the global future of severely resource constrained food systems, the notion that food security will ever be achieved in the face of rising inequality is totally contrary to the available evidence. Goal 2 of eradicating hunger is dependant on addressing the unequal distribution of socio-economic power within resource constrained and globally competitive food systems.

16. OWG should move beyond the false choice of including ‘poverty’ or ‘equality (equity)’ in the joint statement. Both need to be addressed. Also, poverty and inequality should not be conflated as meaning the same thing. While there may be overlap, the overlap is not so great that it would justify striking the equality stand-alone goal. Poverty is a state or economic condition. Equality is an over-arching value. The value transcends the three pillars of sustainability (environment, economic, and social), and pursuing the value moves us collectively closer to ‘productive harmony’ in the end. Further, there is far too much academic and published literature on the topic of sustainability that explicitly references equality. Now is not the time to ‘cherry-pick’.

From Savio Carvalho, Amnesty International - As i was unclear where to add,..suggesting some language for the letter. We need to keep it maximum to a page with clear rationalle and language.

Eliminating discrimination in laws, policies and practices would be a vital step in promoting equality. Discrimination is a key underlying cause of inequality and can be a hurdle in alleviating poverty. All the focus areas should be grounded in the fundamental guarantee of equality and non-discrimination. The Post 2015 agenda should embody the responsibility of states, when acting together or alone, to take proactive measures to identify and address entrenched discrimination both direct and indirect. It should also embody the responsibility of states, international institutions and corporations to avoid and remedy discrimination for which they are directly or indirectly responsible.

We call for an explicit reference to be made to the positive obligations on states to identify and eliminate discrimination and ensure equality. This may require legislative or administrative reform to repeal discriminatory provisions or address discriminatory practices by the government or private actors, a change in resource allocation, temporary special measures, or educational measures. A critical component may be effective anti-discrimination laws that give effective remedies to those affected by discrimination. The Post 2015 agenda should support development strategies which are designed to reach and benefit the most marginalized, excluded and in-need populations. This includes addressing the urgent social needs of such populations as well as assessing difficulties that such groups experience in enjoying their fundamental human rights, and taking the necessary steps to address these difficulties. This may require states, in accordance with their obligations, to adopt measures to ensure that individuals and entities in the private sector do not discriminate on grounds prohibited by international law.

The Post 2015 agenda should recognize the risk of discrimination, both direct and indirect, in development policies and actively prevent these risks. This requires projects and plans to consider at-risk groups from the beginning, and ensure avenues for meaningful participation in decision-making and free prior and informed consent.

Eliminating systemic discrimination and realizing sustainable development without discrimination may require greater devotion of resources to traditionally neglected groups. The Post 2015 agenda should prioritize investment in the poorest and most marginalized populations. They can go some way toward achieving this by including indicators that measure the achievement of targets by wealth quintiles, with a specific target of addressing the social and economic needs of the poorest two quintiles. Monitoring progress on the Post 2015 agenda should also use benchmarks and indicators based on disaggregated data in line with prohibited grounds of discrimination.

**ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THIS STATEMENT**

**(please add your email in a comment)**

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Initiative for Equality (Field Hearings network)

Unfortunately, the supporting of a statement has to happen in consultation with others. Once there is a final document I may be able to add our name. - Daniel Perell, Baha’i International Community

I suopport Daniel arguments . Once the document is finalized we may be able to add our name. ( marcela Ballara REPEM)

Conservation of Flora and Fauna COFF

durani.amir@gmail.com.

Centre for Human Rights and Development - Mongolia

The world today is facing more challenges The prime needs to boost the Sustainable development at the grass root level . this should be splitted into sole goal of equity as a priority goals and should not be merge with any others goals like poverty. lot of questions and justification is concluded at the policy making process. we endorsed this should be addressed as a single goals and give due diligence because today the developing countries are least priorities the equity with sustainable development.

**Sahibzada Amir Ahmad.**

**yes agree**

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**l just want to support all facts presented here, I dont agree that the inequality goal should be silent.**

**JANUARY MVULA**

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**we support the idea of a strong stand alone goal on equality.**

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**tlalibertad@gmail.com** **to support the goal pls use and refer to Oxfam’s just released position and study..**

**“*Making it Happen: Oxfam’s proposals for the Post-2015 Framework”* comes ahead of the UN’s Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) meeting in September.**

**As the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to a close, two major injustices continue to undermine the efforts of millions of people to escape poverty and hunger: inequality and climate change. In 2015 the world has the opportunity to change that.**

**Economic inequality and climate change are addressed in the first draft of the Open Working Group’s proposed post-2015 goals, notes Oxfam. But binding commitments on these issues must be accepted as essential parts of the new agenda.**

**BARRY Aminata TOURE Conseil Mondial GCAP**

**Coordinatrice Alliance contre la Pauvreté au Mali**

**Bamako Mali**

**A notre avis il faut combattre l’négalité entre les Etats parceque c’est ce qui favorise au niveau politique la pression d’un état sur l’autre en imposant des politiques injustes.Quelques pays sont riches et imposent leur dicktats aux autres qui par manque de moyens se soumettent et mettent leur pays et les populations en danger .**

**David Kossi Lébénè AGBEMEDI**

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