**If your organisation wants to endorse the letter, please sign at the bottom:**

**Open Letter to co-chairs and all the member states of the OWG on SDGs**

**16 June 2014**

**Excellencies,**

**Representatives of major groups and stakeholders of civil society registered to participate in the 12th session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), write this letter to you, following the decision to close the session to civil society.**

**Over 330 civil society organisations have gathered in New York to participate in the OWG, on request of UN DESA with many coming from abroad, at considerable cost, time and resources.**

**None of the civil society organisations had been informed previously that they would not be able to attend the OWG meeting this week.**

**Since civil society worldwide are being excluded as they can no longer follow the webcast, at least their representatives who came all the way to the US should be allowed to participate and inform their constituencies.**

**We echo calls by Sweden, Vietnam (on behalf of their troika with Thailand and Bhutan), Ireland and Germany who specifically called to maintain an inclusive and open spirit of the OWG that benefits from civil society’s participation.**

**As we call for a transformative, participatory and inclusive development framework we have to embody those principles in the process of formulating this agenda. This is in line with Article 248 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document which calls for “…an intergovernmental process on SD, that is open to all stakeholders…”.**

**This exclusion of Major Groups and other Stakeholders contradicts the co-chair’s calls for civil society to meaningfully respond and provide concrete ideas for the draft goals and targets. Civil society is no longer able to provide their expertise, as they lack the information on where the discussions stand.**

**We call into mind the compromise that co-chairs had made, to have ‘informal informals’ in the week preceding the open working group meeting. We therefore object that the informals were resumed during the formal session, and that civil society was subsequently excluded, without a clear reason to do so.**

**Up to this point our engagement has been very constructive and much appreciated, and we regret that the doors are being closed. This contradicts meaningful civil society participation.**

**Even if the format of the informals is maintained, we call to mind the precedent established by the Rio+20 conference, where the informals were open for observers from Major Groups and Stakeholders.**

**We therefore ask the co-chairs to either revert to the formal session or follow the precedent established at Rio+20 and open informals to observers. We also call for access to the latest hard copies of the documents. We are happy to meet with you to discuss this further,**

**Sincerely,**

**The Organising Partners of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders**

**Endorsed by:**

1. **Women Major Group**
2. **NGO Major Group**
3. **Workers and Trade Union Major Group**
4. **Major Group Children and Youth**
5. **Indigenous Peoples Major Group**
6. **Local Authorities Major Group**
7. **Scientific and Technological Community Major Group**
8. **Business and Industry Major Group**
9. **Beyond 2015 campaign**
10. **International Federation of Medical Student’s Associations**
11. **The International Movement of Catholic Students - Pax Romana**
12. **Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future**
13. **Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (India)**
14. **Natural Resources Defense Council**
15. **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)**
16. **Feminist Task Force**
17. **IBON International**
18. **Gestos- HIV, Communication and Gender and**
19. **ABONG - Brazilian Association of NGOs support this letter**
20. **Fundacion para Estudiuo e Investigacion de la mujer**
21. **International AIDS Women**
22. **Caucus and the Women Want Wait International Campaign**
23. **CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation**
24. **WECF International**
25. **Project Survival Pacific: Fiji’s Youth Climate Movement**
26. **International Women’s Health Organisation**
27. **WEDO**
28. **European Environmental Bureau**
29. **Resurj**
30. **Children and Youth International**
31. **FEMNET (African Womens Development and Communication Network**
32. **Rio+Twenties**
33. **Center for Reproductive Rights**
34. **Forum of women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan**
35. **SIGLO XXIII - EL SALVADOR**
36. **AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS - USA**
37. **Association de l’Education Environnementale pour les Futures Génération**
38. **AEEFG Tunisie**
39. **Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development**
40. **Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society · (CECOEDECON), India**
41. **Beyond Copenhagen Collective, India**
42. **PAIRVI, India**
43. **Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), India**
44. **21st Century Issues, Nigeria**
45. **Niger Delta Women’s movement for Peace and Development-Nigeria**
46. **Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)**
47. **NAWO - the National Alliance of Women’s Organisations (UK)**
48. **Mining Working Group at the UN**
49. **Council of Canadians**
50. **Blue Planet Project**
51. **Asia Pacific Research Network**
52. **LSU - The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations**
53. **Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), India**
54. **Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI), India**
55. **Beyond Copenhagen Collective on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, India**
56. **Adéquations, France**
57. **Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development**
58. **Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD)**
59. **Equidad de Género: ciudadanía, trabajo y familia**
60. **Center for Reproductive Rights**
61. **Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd**
62. **International Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Global Business Alliance for Post-2015**
63. **Heinrich Boell Foundation North America**
64. **CoopeSoliDar R.L ( Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social R.L)**
65. **World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)**
66. **Réseau des Organisations Féminines d’Afrique Francophone (ROFAF)**
67. **MERCY CORPS-KENYA**
68. **West Asia -United Nation Environment Program**
69. **International Youth Council**
70. **A SEED JAPAN**
71. **AAUW Youth Representative**
72. **African Youth Panel (AYP)**
73. **African Youth Panel, Uganda Society for Disabled Children**
74. **African Youth with Disabilities Network**
75. **Association Jeunesse Espoir du Cameroun**
76. **AXIOS**
77. **Bailiff Africa**
78. **Cape Verde Youth Federation, CPLP Youth Forum**
79. **Child Fund Alliance**
80. **CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality**
81. **Columbia University Coalition for Sustainable Development (CUCSD)**
82. **Columbia Students for International Service (CSIS)**
83. **Columbia University SIPA's Environmental Coalition**
84. **Columbia University SIPA's United Nations Studies Program**
85. **Communitas: Coalition for Sustainable Cities, Regions and Human Settlements in the SDGs**
86. **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOUNDATION/TURKEY**
87. **Daffodil International University Model United Nations Association(DIUMUNA)**
88. **Dutch National Youth Council**
89. **Ethiopian Change and Development Association**
90. **Friendship Ambassadors Foundation Inc (www.faf.org)**
91. **GenYNot**
92. **Global Campaign for Education - U.S.**
93. **YOUTH AWARENESS ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**
94. **Indonesia's Youth Working Group on Post-2015**
95. **Indonesian Future Leaders**
96. **Indonesian Youth Working Group on Post 2015**
97. **Informal affiliations (no official sponsorship):**
98. **Institute for Conscious Global Change**
99. **INTACH (Indian National Trust For Art & Cultural Heritage)**
100. **Information Habitat Where Information Lives**
101. **Jamaica Information Service**
102. **JCI (Jeune Chambre International)**
103. **NAIMUN( North African International Model United Nations)**
104. **Just Save One**
105. **White House Young America Series**
106. **Kufunda Village and Tree of life**
107. **"National Youth Parliament of the Gambia.**
108. **National Youth Services Council, Sri Lanka**
109. **la FE.M.A.J.E.CI Fédération des Mouvements et Associations de Jeunesse et d'Enfance de Cote d'Ivoire**
110. **R.N.J-CI: Réseau National Jeunesse de Cote d'Ivoire**
111. **Philippine Youth Climate Movement**
112. **Polish Council of Youth Organizations**
113. **Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA)**
114. **Student International Training (SIT)**
115. **SustainUS**
116. **Tanzanian Children's Fund / Run by Rural**
117. **Teens Turning Green**
118. **Flemish youth council**
119. **The Government of Kenya**
120. **The National Youth Authority Ghana and the Youth Bridge Foundation**
121. **UDYAMA**
122. **Uganda Society for Disabled Children**
123. **African Youth Panel**
124. **African Youth with Disabilities Network**
125. **UN Association-USA**
126. **Centre for War/Peace Studies**
127. **United Network of Young Peace builders**
128. **United Religions Initiative**
129. **United Religions Initiative (URI) Representative to United Nations, Geneva**
130. **United religions initiative uri.org**
131. **WeYouth**
132. **Which**
133. **Dutch youth council**
134. **World Federation of United Nations Associations**
135. **World House Institute**
136. **World Vision International**
137. **Al Nahda Youth Society for Development and Communication - Boujdour**
138. **Peace Child International**
139. **Youth Action Network**
140. **Global Youth Coalition of HIV And Aids**
141. **Arab Youth Alliance**
142. **World Youth Alliance**
143. **Somaliland National Youth Umbrella (SONYO)**
144. **World Youth Council**
145. **United Youth Google Group**
146. **World Youth employment Summit**
147. **One Young World**
148. **Yes (Youth Empowerment for Progress - YEP)**
149. **Youth Peer Education network (Y-PEER) and UNFPA Jordan**
150. **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES**
151. **Global Shapers Community (Port Louis Hub)**
152. **KickLoans**
153. **Congolaise National Youth Council**
154. **TakingITGlobal**
155. **The Global Youth Action Network**
156. **YouthMovements.org**
157. **The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition.**
158. **Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)**
159. **African Youth Panel (AYP)**
160. **African Youth with Disabilities Network (AYWDN)**
161. **CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality**
162. **Conseil de la Jeunesse**
163. **National Council of Child Rights Advocates, Nigeria: South West Zone.**
164. **Jo-Jikum**
165. **National Youth Network of Environment Ministry of Environment of Colombia**
166. **YMCA**
167. **Youth Champs for Mental Health**
168. **Sathya Sai Service Organization**
169. **Hibiscus Charity Champs**
170. **Pasifika Voices**
171. **Buddy's Network**
172. **Youth Parliament of Pakistan**
173. **Youthpolicy.org**
174. **Zimbabwe Youth in Tourism**
175. **African Youth Initiative on Climate Change-Kenya (AYICC-K)**
176. **Greenbits Initiative**
177. **Vital Actions for Sustainable Development (AVD - Cameroon)**
178. **African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)**
179. **Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN)**
180. **HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF)**
181. **National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)**
182. **Benin Environment and Education Society**
183. **Worldview Mission (**[**http://worldviewmission.org**](http://worldviewmission.org)**)**
184. **YouAct: European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

*\*\*Please note that more names will follow\*\**