

16 June 2015

## Input zero-draft SDGs by the Women's Major Group

The Women's Major Group welcomes the zero-draft for Sustainable Development Goals as presented by the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on June 3rd, which sets a good basis for ambitious global goals. The Women's Major Group has consulted with its 500+ member organisations in 100 countries worldwide and brings the following suggestions to strengthen the proposed goals and targets, adding certain aspects which are essential to be included, and proposing to delete one goal and several targets to help streamline.

Women represent over 50% of the world population, and are the majority of the poor, therefore women's human rights and gender equality should be at the core of the SDG post2015 agenda. We call on governments to recognize therefore that goal 5 on gender/women will need more targets than other goals. We also support the intervention by Benin stating that 17 goals is not necessarily 'too much' seen the immense task of this global agenda.

### *The Women's Major Group recommends for the zero draft on SDGs:*

- 1) **The chapeau** to reflect following additions:
  - a. Recognize that **gender equality, the human rights of women and girls, and their effective participation are core to the SDGs** and must be guaranteed including through the repeal of discriminatory laws and the removal of formal barriers
  - b. **Refer specifically** to CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, IPCD and their subsequent reviews amongst other international agreements referring to human rights, social, economic and environmental matters
  - c. **Recognize the need to transform** current imbalances in the international financial and trade structures to benefit those currently living in poverty
  - d. **Recognize the crucial importance of addressing climate change** for poverty eradication

**On Gender/Women (Goal 5):** We welcome the proposed language on **gender equality and women's empowerment**, which is in line with various agreements on the **human rights of women and girls**. We welcome the inclusion of girls in the wording of the goal and relevant targets and strongly support the inclusion of a target to eliminate harmful practices such as **child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**. It is imperative to maintain target 5.6 on reducing and redistributing the burden of **unpaid care work** between states, private sector, communities, men and women. Under target 5.8 on women's leadership and participation in decision-making, we call for adding language **on women's participation in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution**. We call for inclusion of **sexual and reproductive health and rights** in target 5.9 and the addition of **comprehensive sexuality education**. WMG views the inclusion of SRHR in both Goal 3 on health and Goal 5 on gender equality as imperative. In Goal 3, its inclusion ensures everyone's access to SRHR. In Goal 5, it is about fundamental women's rights to control their own bodies and fertility and as a precondition to gender equality. We support an additional target calling for ensuring access to information and justice for all women and girls. We were told that at the "informal-informals" some countries proposed to merge targets 1,2,3, which we strongly disagree with, as they require different strategies to ensure achievement. Women are half the population and cannot limit addressing gender equality and women's issues only in one Goal Area or into just a few targets under Goal 5. As an underlying issue of equality, their must be additional targets under Goal 5. Finally, we recommend the re-wording of the title of the goal to read: **Achieve ~~Attain~~ gender equality, the full realization of women and girls human rights and empowerment of all women and girls everywhere.**

**On Health (Goal 3):** we propose to reword the target 3.8. on sexual and reproductive health services, adding “*to fulfil all human rights in this regard with a focus on adolescents and young people*”. It is essential to include a reference to adolescents and young people as e.g. adolescents aged 15-19 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or child birth as those over age 20; girls under age 15 are five times more likely to die, adolescents account for an estimated 2.5 million (14%) of the approximately 19 million unsafe abortions that occur annually in the developing world. In Sub-Saharan Africa, adolescents account for 25% of the total unsafe abortions and young people aged 15–24 accounted for 42% of new HIV infections in people aged 15 and older.

**On Water (Goal 6)** we have noted several omissions, and would like the goal to refer to the **human right** to water and sanitation in target 1; to **menstrual hygiene** in target 2; to **protection of water sources from pollution** and to the **hierarchy of water use**, with priority for people’s needs over industry and agriculture in 4 and 6.

**On Economy (Goal 8):** We propose to focus this goal on the right to “**decent work**”, and reformulate the title as “Ensure **decent work for all** and strong inclusive and sustainable economic growth development “ as the “economy” is only a means to the end. It should include language on **redistribution**, i.e. fiscal and monetary policies which are strong in reducing income inequalities, not in creating more millionaires. It needs a new target on ensuring a ‘living wage’ particularly for women, domestic, and migrant workers.

**On Poverty (Goal 1):** We cannot wait another 15 years to eliminate extreme poverty which was not achieved with the MDGs. The USD 1,25 is not an accurate measure for poverty, it is a starvation indicator. It is not for lack of financial resources, but lack of addressing the multi-dimensional root causes of poverty that MDG-1 was not achieved, including gender equality, as women continue to be the majority of the poor. The WMG proposes to delete and reformulate this target with reference to the universal social protection floor and minimum “living” wages expressed in being not less than e.g. 60% of national average income. If co-chairs decide to retain the \$1,25 indicator, then target 1 should be achieved by 2020.

**On Hunger (Goal 2):** we cannot wait another 15 years, all countries must achieve ending hunger by 2020 latest, really it should be tomorrow. This goal should focus on **securing land rights** for women and men and their **control over traditional seeds and genetic resources** according to Aichi Targets (UN CBD). We strongly support the targets aiming to limit food price volatility and the need for financial regulation.

**On Inequalities (Goal 10):** Wealth/capital inequalities are a more accurate indicator of inequitable development than income inequality alone. This goal should **aim at redistribution of wealth, power and resources**, including a new target to **reduce the proportion of people living above** extreme wealth lines, and new target to ensure “by 2030, universal Income is secured to all people”, “eliminate tax evasion and elusion of the highest quintiles by 2030” and “by 2020 financial flows from private sector are accountable in fiscal schemes in every country at national and local level”. To achieve this we need a target to “introduce a **global corporate tax floor**” and on “reducing and **transferring military budgets** to sustainable development budgets”. Important is that any reference to traditional knowledge and/or **cultural diversity** has to be together with following language “this cannot undermine states’ fundamental obligation to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights for all” (is agreed language).

**On Ecosystems (Goal 15):** add a new target 6bis which reads “by 2020, **halting land degradation and land grabbing** including through the recognition of indigenous and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs) and other community-driven land conservation restoration initiatives”. For target 2, add ‘forests’ and ‘natural regeneration’ and avoid “commodification of ecosystems” because one-sided financial incentives could lead to, for example, harmful monoculture tree plantations.

**On Climate (Goal 13):** add to Climate target 1, “to hold the increase in global average temperature below a 1.5°C rise, ensure that **real reductions of GHG are made at source**, by sustainable production and consumption, not through financial markets. And to add that any action to adapt, mitigate or address loss and damage is undertaken **via gender-responsive, socially just and environmentally** sound actions

**On SCP (Goal 12):** We proposes to **merge** goal 12 and 9. Target 12.4 should be reworded to ensure, by 2020 and beyond, that hazardous chemicals are **substituted by safer alternatives** thereby automatically **eliminating hazardous waste**. As a new target we call for a global institution responsible for **monitoring corporate** sector activities on their social and environmental responsibility.

**On Cities (Goal 11):** needs to include women in participatory planning for cities and settlements; include a target on reducing the ecological footprints (and thus environmental impact in terms of use of resources) of human settlements by x%, increasing green public spaces by a certain percentage and ensuring public, safe and sustainable mobility systems.

**On Education (Goal 4):** needs to include mention of comprehensive sexuality education, education on human rights gender-equality, non-discrimination, conflict resolution as well as on sustainable development. This goal should include the impact of austerity measures globally, across both developed and developing countries, on the right to education as education budgets are cut and children taken out of schools and put into paid labour in developing countries.

**On Energy (Goal 7):** should focus on socially and environmentally sound non-fossil energy technologies, especially for women, households, communities, indigenous peoples, farmers and small and medium entrepreneurs. Qualifiers as “clean”, “sustainable” or “modern” energy need to be defined. While biomass can be renewable, its potential negative social and environmental impacts can impede its sustainability. Nuclear energy is also neither modern, clean, affordable nor sustainable.

**On Industrialization (Goal 9):** Manufacturing can be just as socially and environmentally damaging as commodity production and is usually less productive than services sector. Whilst “industrialization” only refers to production, services are as important for creation of wellbeing. This goal is really more a “Means of Implementation” and could be integrated into goal 12 on for example sustainable industrialization, production, services and consumption.

**On Oceans (Goal 14):** the target 1 on ocean pollution should be achieved by 2020. Target 5 should add “substantive inclusion of women into national, regional and global fisheries decision-making bodies”. New target 3bis should read “as of 2015, impose a precautionary moratorium on experimental technology including deep-sea mining, to ensure no irreversible harm to oceans including increased ocean acidification and biodiversity loss”.

**On Peace and Security (Goal 16):** We appreciate that the chapeau in paragraph 4 mentions peace and security, which is critical to SD and not just an enabler. We would like to reiterate it should not be lost, especially given the role of and impact on women. We propose to say in the title: “responsive” and capable institutions. There needs to be a focus on human rights, and women need to be specifically be mentioned in the target on ending violence, as well as to target on conflict resolution. The OWG11 language on legal identity was better “by 2030 ensure public services for all including legal identity”. We call to retain the reference to illicit trade in (small) arms and to add a target on reduce military spending by x% and allocating this to sustainable development.

**On Means of Implementation (Goal 17):** This goal has been presented for the first time and will need a lot of work both in adding missing targets and deleting targets which contradict the aim of sustainable

development. Targets to be **deleted** are targets on the international trade agreements of **WTO to be replaced** with targets for **fair market access** addressing current inequality of trade regimes for low-income countries, promoting decent work and higher value added, and allowing low-income countries to protect their markets to develop domestic competitive sectors, R&D and patent ownership. We recommend also to **delete** target 20 on **Public Private Partnerships**. Experience with PPP's in infrastructure and energy have had very negative social and environmental and even economic impacts, and there is an increasing number of evidence of failure. PPPs, particularly in energy and infrastructure, have often lead to “**socialization of costs and privatization of profits**”.

An important MOI target for goal 5 (Gender) is on **unpaid care work**. We understand that during the “Informals” some countries did not understand unpaid care work. There are many excellent best practices on means to reduce unpaid care work, such as, (1) provision of basic services, including water, which cuts down on time fetching water (2) income support measures (social protection).

Target 7 on eliminating **agricultural export subsidies**, should specify that this is a target for industrialized countries, but low and middle income countries are allowed pro-poor agricultural price subsidies. Target 28 on improving progressive tax collection, **tax and natural resource revenue transparency** should include “and accountability, regional harmonization of fiscal and monetary policy to avoid undercutting between neighbour countries and international resource mobilization through global taxation schemes (FTT etc.)”. We recommend to add a new target 17.31bis for a multilateral, participatory **technology** assessment mechanism and a target to halt **illicit financial flows** and **control and regulate speculation** in the commodities markets, including through ensuring favourable terms for commodity-dependent developing countries in contracts with TNCs, amongst several other proposed targets, see full proposal annexed.

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