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A Commentary on the Final Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on SDGs

Debapriya Bhattacharya, Towfiqul Islam Khan, and Umme Salma

This paper will assess the final outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following a brief history of the process, it evaluates how proposed OWG goals and targets reflect the three pillars of sustainable development, examines to what extent the document serves the overarching transformative development agenda, and assesses the content of the candidate goals and targets with a view to further consolidate the post-2015 framework. This paper identifies areas where there exists further scope to fine-tune the goals and targets, including categorization, numerical figures, accountability, and a conclusive consensus on transformation.

Many processes are working to shape the post-2015 development agenda. Of the several United Nations (UN) processes, the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a major source of inputs. Created by the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, widely known as Rio+20, the OWG was tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs, which will likely be part of the post-2015 development framework for the UN. The OWG's mandate was to develop the SDGs through a balance of economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated, coherent fashion. Following thirteen rounds of formal discussions, the OWG released its final outcome document on July 19, 2014, which proposes 17 goals and 169 targets. The following paper

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seeks to assess the OWG outcome document in view of the aspirations and practicalities that must underpin the post-2015 framework.

This paper critically examines the contents of the outcome document and the process that was followed in its preparation. In particular, it identifies areas where there exists further scope to fine-tune proposed goals and targets. This commentary is a contribution to preparations for the upcoming inter-governmental UN negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This paper first reviews the process by which the OWG prepared the outcome document. Second, it assesses how the proposed goals and targets reflect the three pillars of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental pillars. Third, it examines to what extent the outcome document serves the overarching transformative development agenda. Finally, the paper evaluates the content of the candidate goals and targets with a view to further consolidate the post-2015 framework.

This paper, however, limits its scope to a review of the content of the OWG outcome document. It does not aim to examine the feasibility of the proposed goals and targets. It does not include an assessment of how the outcome document balances the three pillars of sustainable development. It also does not categorize the goals and targets into input, output, and outcome. The paper purports that the aforementioned lines of inquiry add more value at this stage in the inter-governmental process to negotiate the post-2015 framework.

This paper employs both process analysis and content analysis to develop a series of important conclusions. Process analysis traces the steps followed to finalize the OWG outcome document and helps examine various trends during the consultation process. Content analysis is fundamental to the review of various aspects of the outcome document. Furthermore, the authors consulted official documents, academic literature, and advocacy notes to delineate the paper's analysis and posit its final conclusions.

Process Analysis

The Post-2015 Process

At the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), widely known as the 2010 MDG Summit, it was requested that the UN secretary-general initiate a discussion on the future of a global development agenda to succeed the MDGs. This effectively launched the post-2015 development agenda process, with the High-Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Two years later, Rio+20 established an inclusive process to develop a set of SDGs and led to the formation of the OWG. There was a broad consensus that these two official processes needed to be closely linked and should ultimately converge to put forward a global framework with a single set of goals for the post-2015 period. Thus far, the framework envisaged will have the concept of sustainable development at its core and will be universal, covering both developing and developed countries. The post-2015 framework will be negotiated and finally approved at the UN General Assembly in late 2015.

The preparatory process to date has engaged a wide range of stakeholders who have various capacities and interests in various disciplines. These stakeholders include civil society organizations, businesses, academia, parliaments, and UN agencies. Governments have undertaken various initiatives to identify national expectations and challenges. Throughout this multi-track process, the UN secretary-general provides overall leadership to ensure its success.

Between 2012 and 2014, four separate processes other than the OWG have been working within the UN system to shape the post-2015 framework. These are the HLP, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the UN Office of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, and the UN Regional Commissions.¹ A number of other active initiatives (e.g., the UN Global Compact [UNGC], a voluntary corporate responsibility initiative, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network [SDSN], and Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals) have also engaged academia, civil society, and the private sector in problem solving to support sustainable development.²

The OWG Process

One of the major outcomes of Rio+20 was an inter-governmental agreement to launch a process to develop a set of “action-oriented,” “concise,” and “easy to communicate” SDGs.³ Subsequently, the OWG was established by the UN General Assembly with thirty seats shared by seventy UN member states. Seats were allocated according to states’ geographical locations. Countries from Africa held seven seats, countries from Asia-Pacific regions also held seven seats, Latin American and Caribbean countries held six seats, and European countries held ten seats. Seats were allocated according to level of development: eleven seats went to advanced economies, eleven others went to emerging economies, three seats went to low-income and least developed countries, and five were given to countries with various levels of income.

The OWG had two co-chairs—one from Kenya, a low-income country, and the other from Hungary, a developed country. Following the commitment outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document, the OWG was mandated to propose candidate SDGs. Thus, the OWG convened thirteen sessions between March 14, 2013 and July 18, 2014, addressing issues under eight thematic clusters. Its activities were divided into two phases: stocktaking and negotiation.⁴

The stocktaking phase took place across the first eight sessions that spanned from March 2013 until February 2014. This phase involved the collection and categorization of the views of experts and other stakeholders, while governments deliberated on the main themes along with the issues highlighted in the Rio+20 outcome document’s “Framework for Action.”⁵ The OWG was also informed during this time by civil society through “The World We Want 2015” web platform, which had surveyed people worldwide, as well as by the SDGs’ e-Inventory that crowd-sourced post-2015 proposals and other individual contributions.⁶ The inputs generated through these different platforms were divided into thematic clusters and then channeled

to steering committees. These committees engaged with major groups and stakeholders to develop nine joint position papers. Comments on these papers and the thematic areas were then sought. Following a participatory approach, the stocktaking phase served as a solid basis for commencing the negotiation phase.

The negotiation phase took place from session nine in February 2014 to session thirteen in July 2014. This phase involved consensus building that shaped a draft proposal on SDGs. Unresolved debates related to the themes and a number of contentious issues were settled during this period, including the inclusion of climate change, sexual and reproductive health and rights, governance issues such as rule of law, and means of implementation (MoI).⁷

The OWG stands as one of the most important processes shaping the post-2015 framework due to its work to increase the scale of participation. The development of the MDG agenda in 2000 did not involve a broad-based participatory process. At that time, a process such as the HLP largely involved presidents, heads of state, and senior officials. Global consultations set the OWG process apart from the other processes and increased the salience of its conclusions.

Content Analysis

The final outcome document of the OWG has two parts: a chapeau and a section outlining the candidate 17 goals and 169 targets. Content analysis of the document highlights crucial areas that require further consideration ahead of negotiations on the post-2015 framework next year.

The Pillars of Sustainable Development

The SDGs were expected to incorporate all three aforementioned dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way. The candidate goals indeed may be broadly categorized under the three pillars of sustainable development, but due to the multi-functionality of goals, categorizing one goal exclusively under one pillar is difficult. Because of this, this paper classifies these goals under primary and secondary categories in table 1. Out of seventeen candidate goals, six were judged as primarily social, six primarily environmental, and five primarily economic. Considering the dual nature of the goals, most of the candidate goals belong under the social pillar, followed next by the economic pillar, and lastly by the environmental pillar.

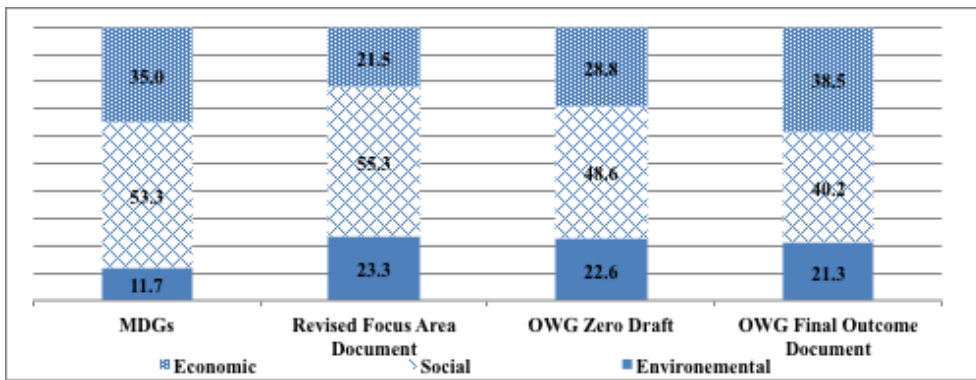
Table 1: Categorization of OWG candidate goals under the three pillars of sustainable development

Goals	Pillars	
	Primary	Secondary
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Economic	Social
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	Social	Economic
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Social	Social
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	Social	Social
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Social	Economic
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Environmental	Social
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	Environmental	Economic
8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	Economic	Social
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation	Economic	Social
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Economic	Social
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	Social	Environmental
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Environmental	Economic
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Environmental	Economic
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	Environmental	Economic
15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss	Environmental	Environmental
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels	Social	Economic
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Economic	Social

Source: Authors' elaboration based on the UN Open Working Group⁸

The salience of social issues in the agenda is visible; however, further data indicates that the emergence of an economic agenda within development is likely. Calculations indicate that 40.2 percent of the total number of targets belong under the social pillar, 38.5 percent were associated with economic issues, and the remaining 21.3 percent reflected the environmental agenda. This set of targets is a result of comprehensive consultation and negotiation processes. Comparison of the final outcome document to the two previous interim outcome documents of the OWG—the revised Focus Area Document and Zero Draft—reveals that the number of candidate targets was decreased from 212 in the revised focus area document to 148 in the Zero Draft and then increased to 169 in the final outcome document.⁹ As demonstrated in figure 1, candidate targets under the economic pillar gradually gained relative ground as their share increased from 21.5 percent to 28.8 percent to 38.5 percent across the three documents. This may be a reflection of economic issues gaining importance in the international discourse on development following the global financial and economic crisis.

Figure 1. Percentage shares of candidate targets under the three pillars of sustainable development across OWG outcome documents



Sources: Authors' calculations based on the UN Open Working Group¹⁰

Transformative Agenda

One of the stated intentions of the post-2015 framework is to catalyze transformation. This concept of “transformation” refers specifically to the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which urged five big transformative shifts: to “leave no one behind,” “put sustainable development at the core,” “transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth,” “build peace and effective, open and accountable public institutions,” and “forge a new global partnership.”¹¹ To gauge how well the final outcome document reflects these transformative targets, this paper identifies *which* candidate goals and targets align with the transformative agenda. This paper judges that four candidate goals can be considered transformative: Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reducing inequality within and between countries), Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production), and Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies, access

to justice, effective and capable institutions). Of the candidate targets, 34 out of 169, or approximately 20 percent, can be considered related to the transformative agenda. These thirty-four targets are linked to thirteen candidate goals.¹² Twelve targets are primarily associated with economic transformation, eleven with the social transformative agenda, and the other eleven with the environmental transformative agenda.

Arguably, much work on addressing the transformative agenda in negotiations on the post-2015 framework remains to be done. Nadine Ravaud has argued that the OWG outcome document could not reflect stronger rights-based targets and a deeper transformation of the global economic and financial systems.¹³ On the other hand, Beyond2015 has observed that many of the candidate global partnership targets are associated with trade and development finance.¹⁴ Indeed, targets with regard to international cooperation for undertaking the needed global economic reforms (e.g., curbing illicit financial flows and tax evasion) are very limited in the OWG final document. This business-as-usual approach (i.e., continuing to have a global partnership for development goals similar to the current MDGs) may undermine the possibly transformative components of the future framework.

Means of Implementation

One of the major limitations of the MDGs was the failure to deliver a Means of Implementation (MoI) framework. In connection to this, the final OWG outcome document attempts to integrate MoI more comprehensively. Indeed, it was necessary to effectively translate the expressed commitment of the international community into tangible sustainable development outcomes by putting forward an appropriate MoI.¹⁵ The final OWG outcome document includes a candidate goal dedicated to MoI. Candidate targets associated with MoI are also included under candidate Goals 1 to 16. However, a number of potential MoIs remain absent. For instance, the mobilization of innovative finance (for instance, foreign exchange transaction fees, carbon taxes) and blended finance was not included by the OWG.¹⁶ There is also no mention of intellectual property rights in the outcome document. It appears that the proposed MoI remains unclear in creating an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

Countries with Special Situations

Many countries and specific country groups with special features require special attention, particularly African countries, middle-income countries, the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The OWG outcome document includes only two targets that are dedicated to countries in special situations, specifically the LDCs, landlocked developing countries, and SIDS groupings.

A major debate during discussions on shaping the post-2015 framework is how to address specific needs and particular country contexts within a universal framework. Moreover, the outcome document does not frame goals and targets to reflect specific challenges faced by the middle-income countries, such as the so-called “middle-income trap.” Hence, the outcome

document may be interpreted as general in its propositions for the future global development agenda. As has been felt during the implementation of MDGs, a one-size-fits-all development agenda can have limited impact on certain countries' development processes. Hence, the agenda's implementation faces considerable challenges.

Parallel Processes

The OWG consulted with a number of other parallel processes, so it is expected that its outcome document to some extent converges with the reports

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produced by other UN processes. A comparison of the OWG outcome document with proposals prepared by the HLP, UNGC, and SDSN indicates that the extent of similarities among candidate goals is very high.¹⁷ Eleven out of twelve candidate goals in the HLP report, nine out of ten candidate goals in the UNGC report, and nine out of ten candidate goals in the SDSN report are common

with the candidate goals in the OWG outcome document.¹⁸ This implies that OWG to a large extent considered the key propositions of other proposals as a part of developing a comprehensive outcome.

Lexical Analysis

A lexical analysis of both the Zero Draft and the OWG final outcome document indicates that a number of important changes in wording took place that increased the scope of goals and targets.¹⁹ For example, Goal 1 in the Zero Draft is to “end poverty everywhere” and in the outcome document it is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” The change is certainly a recognition that poverty is multidimensional, one that probably resulted from scrutiny of the Zero Draft during the consultative process. Furthermore, in Goal 2, “achieve food security” was added alongside end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture, and in Goal 4 “ensure inclusive and equitable education” was added to ensure quality education. The final document also emphasized the “sustainable management” of water and sanitation in Goal 6. These examples confirm that language of the final document is evidently more accommodative and comprehensive.

Alignment with Other Initiatives

It is appreciable that the OWG outcome document mentions a number of significant international conventions.²⁰ However, by citing some of these conventions, related candidate targets lose their comprehensiveness. For example, as drafted, Target 5.6 seeks to “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome

documents of their review conferences.”²¹ However, it is arguably not easy to understand the content of this target as it requires knowledge of an external document. Without all the necessary information, the target lacks both clarity and simplicity—two attributes that were identified as desired features for the post-2015 framework.

Shaping the Post-2015 Framework

It is widely acknowledged that the OWG outcome document is an important resource that will inform the details of the final post-2015 framework. Still, there are a number of issues that policy-makers may want to consider going forward. This includes the proposed number of goals and targets in the outcome document, which is quite large and necessitates streamlining to stress clarity.²² Beyond this, a few other missing elements should also be addressed.

Merging Goals

There is scope to merge a number of candidate goals and targets. For example, Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) can be split into two parts to converge with two existing goals. Targets 2.1 and 2.2 can be placed under Goal 1 (to “end poverty in all forms everywhere”) while the rest of the targets (2.3, 2.4, and 2.5) can be merged with Goal 12 (to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.”)²³ If Goal 2 remains a standalone goal, the words “improved nutrition” could be replaced with “ensure adequate nutrition” to better articulate the desired developmental outcome. Goal 7 (to “ensure sustainable energy for all”) and Goal 12 (to “promote sustainable consumption and production patterns”) may be merged considering their interconnectedness. Goal 14 (to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”) and Goal 15 (to “protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss”) can be merged with Goal 13 (to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”) It should be noted that a number of stakeholder groups seek standalone goals to highlight the issues of their interest. However, having a set of well-articulated targets can also serve that purpose.

Concrete Numerical Targets and Indicators

There is indeed scope to better articulate candidate goals and targets. A number of targets include “x%.” This implies that the targets are not properly defined. Even though the OWG was not tasked with generating numerical targets, such an early effort could have eased negotiations at a later time. Setting targets is an important aspect of the negotiations, but it should also be noted that past global averages were considered in setting MDG targets and found to be burdensome for some countries. Moreover, setting indicators for each target was also not undertaken. Setting SDG in-

dicators against each target—a key exercise to frame the final outcome—may require a prolonged negotiation among the member states even when they have agreed upon goals and targets.

Human Rights

Though paragraph seven in the chapeau reaffirms international human rights commitments, the OWG does not adequately address the challenges of social exclusion and lack of basic human rights for the most disadvantaged. It also does not adequately focus on issues associated with conflicts. In particular, there is no reference to the issues facing refugees and displaced people despite the fact that they are among the most vulnerable people in the world. Specific reference could be made to the most marginalized among women—women and girls with disabilities.

Improved MoI

While the OWG outcome document has been applauded for having a MoI component, it may be more desirable to have a separate, more comprehensive MoI document. The document would also have to be linked to the post-2015 framework. MoI targets need to be categorized into the “finance” and “non-finance” groups. A separate document on upfront resource provisioning may also be desirable.

The monitoring mechanism of the MoI also requires further strengthening. The absence of necessary data and information for many indicators of the MDGs has affected transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of delivery on the global agenda. A data revolution has widely been called to improve the accountability of the next agenda. While the OWG outcome document recognized the need for increased data availability, increased data accessibility—although very much needed—was absent.²⁴ To facilitate the monitoring mechanism, establishing interlinkages among targets in the post-2015 framework is key.

The MoI framework proposed by the OWG does not contain a comprehensive accountability mechanism. In order to facilitate the implementation

A new accountability mechanism should go beyond the current MDG framework and be guided by the principles of efficiency, flexibility, and accessibility.

of the post-2015 framework, a new accountability mechanism is essential. It can be incorporated as part of the monitoring mechanism but could also be a separate document. A new accountability mechanism should go beyond the current MDG framework and be guided by the principles of efficiency, flexibility, and accessibility. The proposed accountability mechanism should be based on a multi-tiered approach that includes parliament at the

national level, peer review at the regional level, and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and UN Economic and Social Council at the global level. The mechanism should allow for national ownership and leadership and involve all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and academia. It must be decentralized.

Language on monitoring and accountability needs to be stringent enough to promote and accelerate implementation of the post-2015 framework. The proposed three separate documents (on MoI, resources, and monitoring and accountability) would be integral parts of the main framework.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper will offer six comments on the post-2015 framework to be considered going forward. First, although the OWG outcome document is useful, there exists further scope to fine-tune the candidate goals and targets. The OWG outcome document largely converges with many of the reports produced by other UN processes. Still, the proposed number of goals and targets is quite large and the goals and targets themselves require further consolidation to keep the implementation of the post-2015 framework manageable. When streamlining, attempts should be made to address some of the aforementioned elements missing from the agenda.

Although the OWG outcome document is useful, there exists further scope to fine-tune the candidate goals and targets.

Second, the OWG did not categorize the candidate goals and targets into “universal” and “national” priorities. Designing a post-2015 framework that balances these two types of priorities is a matter of utmost importance.

Third, social issues still dominate the proposed development framework. As was the case with the MDGs, the social pillar dominates the candidate goals and targets in the OWG outcome document. The social pillar outweighs the economic and environmental pillars in terms of number of goals and targets. However, a comparison of earlier versions of OWG documents with the final outcome document reveals that the latter contains a larger number of economic goals and targets. This may reflect the emphasis of many countries on the primacy of economic transformation.

Fourth, a conclusive consensus on a holistic transformative agenda is yet to be seen. Arguably much work remains to be done on articulating an effective transformative agenda for the post-2015 period. The context for a transformative agenda is currently underpinned by diverging perspectives. The OWG outcome document has made only limited efforts towards reflecting stronger rights-based targets. Although many of the OWG proposed candidate targets are associated with trade and development financing, the post-2015 development agenda will need to address the need for a positive transformation of the economic and financial systems more comprehensively.

Fifth, there remains a need to set concrete numerical targets. Since the OWG outcome document in many instances did not provide numerical targets, issues will likely remain unresolved. It also did not include a set of indicators for each target. Setting indicators against each target was not one of the OWG’s tasks, but including them is nonetheless imperative for a framework that can be effectively monitored.

Lastly, a comprehensive accountability framework is a major missing component in the OWG outcome document. In order to facilitate the implementation of the post-2015 framework, a multi-tiered accountability mechanism involving the diverse groups of stakeholders is paramount. Strengthened language on monitoring and accountability is a prerequisite for effective implementation of the post-2015 framework.

Notes

¹ The five UN Regional Commissions—Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)—have come together to propose a joint regional perspective on the post-2015 agenda.

² Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals, a network of forty-eight think tanks from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, was also active along with other non-government organizations. For details on the initiative see <http://southernvoice-postmdg.org/>.

³ United Nations, *The Future We Want* (New York: United Nations, 2012), <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/GA%20Resolution%20-%20The%20future%20we%20want.pdf>.

⁴ UN Open Working Group, *Progress Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals* (New York: United Nations, 2014), <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3238summaryallowg.pdf>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ For more information on “The World We Want 2015” web platform, see <http://www.worldwewant2015.org>; for more information on the SDGs’ e-Inventory, see <http://www.sdgeinventory.org> and <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1670>.

⁷ A separate candidate target (Target 5.6) for sexual and reproductive health and rights was later incorporated under Goal 5. Additionally, targets concerning rule of law were later included under candidate Goal 16. Lastly, Member States debated extensively on how to incorporate issues related to MoI, i.e., as a stand-alone candidate goal or as crosscutting candidate targets under each candidate goal. Later both approaches were taken.

⁸ UN Open Working Group, *Introduction to the Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals* (New York: United Nations, 2014), http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf.

⁹ UN Open Working Group, *A Revised Focus Area Document* (New York: United Nations, 2014), http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3402Focus%20areas_20140319.pdf; UN Open Working Group, *Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals*; UN Open Working Group, *Introduction and Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (New York: United Nations, 2014), <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4528zerodraft12OWG.pdf>.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Official List of MDG Indicators* (New York: United Nations, 2008), <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/host.aspx?Content=indicators/officialist.htm>.

¹¹ United Nations, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development* (New York: United Nations, 2013), http://www.un.org/sg/manage-ment/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf.

¹² No targets under Goals 3, 13, 14, and 17 could be termed “transformative.”

¹³ Nadine Ravaud, “Reactions from Selected CSOs to the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals,” *World Humanitarian Summit Blog*, July 31, 2014, <https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/451197>.

¹⁴ Beyond2015, *Key Comments: Beyond2015 Reaction to the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals* (Pretoria: Beyond2015, August 2014), <http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Beyond%202015%20Key%20Comments%20to%20the%20OWG%20SDG%20outcome%20document.pdf>.

¹⁵ United Nations, *Letter Dated 19 July 2013 from the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals: Addressed to the President of the General Assembly* (New York: United Nations, 2013), <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/sdgs%20owg%20interim%20report.pdf>.

¹⁶ Debapriya Bhattacharya and Mohammad Afshar Ali, *The SDGs: What are the “Means of Implementation”?*, Briefing 21 (New York: Future United Nations Development System, September 2014), <http://futureun.org/en/Publications-Surveys/Article?newsid=52&teaserId=1>.

¹⁷ For more information see the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development,” http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf; also see the United Nations Global Compact report, “Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda,” https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2013_06_18/UNGC_Post2015_Report.pdf; also see the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network report, “Indicators and Monitoring Framework for Sustainable Development Goals,” <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/140724-Indicator-working-draft1.pdf>

¹⁸ Goal 12 in the HLP report, Goal 9 in the UNGC report, and Goal 10 in the SDSN report were not exclusively addressed in the OWG outcome document. On the other hand, four candidate goals in the OWG document—Goal 10, Goal 12, Goal 14, and Goal 17—were not uniquely covered in the other three reports.

¹⁹ UN Open Working Group, *Introduction and Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (New York: United Nations, 2014), <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4528zerodraft12OWG.pdf>.

²⁰ For example, it mentions the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Doha Declaration, Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of International Property Right (TRIPS), International Conference on Population and Development, Beijing Platform for Action, 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, International Labor Organization Global Job Pacts, Hyogo Framework for Action, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Green Climate Fund, World Trade Organization Fisheries Subsidies Negotiation, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the World Trade Organization including the conclusion of negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda.

²¹ United Nations, *The Future We Want* (New York: United Nations, 2012), <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/GA%20Resolution%20-%20The%20future%20we%20want.pdf>.

²² Debapriya Bhattacharya, “How to Craft a Compelling Narrative and Select Transformative Targets” (paper presented at United Nations Foundation Workshop ahead of OWG-12, New York, New York, July 12, 2014).

²³ For more information, see: UN Open Working Group, *Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals* (New York: United Nations, 2014), http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf.

²⁴ For more information, see Target 17.18: Ibid.