

IUCN's views on the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Annex: Track changes to the declaration of the zero draft document

Zero draft of the outcome document for the  
UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015  
Development Agenda

**Comments and proposals by IUCN**

## TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD BY 2030:

### A NEW AGENDA FOR GLOBAL ACTION

#### Preamble

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries acting in collaborative partnership will implement the Agenda. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for present and future generations. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world on to a sustainable path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The new Agenda sets out, inter alia, to the following principles and values:

- ~~• End poverty and hunger;~~
  - ~~• Secure education, health and basic services for all;~~
  - ~~• Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;~~
  - ~~• Combat inequalities within and between countries;~~
  - ~~• Foster inclusive economic growth, shared prosperity and sustainable lifestyles for all;~~
  - ~~• Promote safe and inclusive cities and human settlements;~~
  - ~~• Protect the planet, fight climate change, use natural resources sustainably and safeguard our oceans;~~
  - ~~• Strengthen governance and promote peaceful, safe, just and inclusive societies; and~~
  - ~~• Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development~~
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- Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities
  - People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children
  - Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive and transformative economy
  - Planet: to protect our planet for all societies and our children
  - Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions
  - Partnership: to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development.

**Comment [IUCN1]:** This agenda is referred to with different names and formulae across the document. We propose to call it: "Charter for People and Planet in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", as featured in paragraph 42

**Comment [IUCN2]:** It should be avoided to make reference to the SDGs in a grouped manner as it bears the risk of creating silos. This part could instead describe the principles and values of the post-2015 development agenda.

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD BY 2030:  
A NEW AGENDA FOR GLOBAL ACTION

***Introduction***

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the 193 member States of the United Nations, meeting in New York from 25-27 September 2015 as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary, have agreed today on new global goals for the sustainable development of humanity that fully respects our planet, —and of our planet.
2. On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic agreement on a comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal goals and targets. If these are realizedThe achievement of these goals,they will transform for the better the world in which we all live.
3. We recognize that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We intend, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger once and for all; to combat inequalities; to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its resources; and to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and shared prosperity.
4. As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that nobody will be left behind. We commit to achievingwish to seethe goals and targets metfor all economic and social groupings.
5. Having consulted widely with stakeholders, and having made a special effort to listen to the voices and concerns of the poorest and the vulnerable, we are adopting a universal Agenda for sustainable development. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for its implementation and for the attainment by 2030 of our shared vision.
6. This Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance. Accepted by all countries and applicable to all, it has been agreed following two years of intensive public consultation and engagement around the world. It is the first ever global compact for human development and preservation of the planet.
7. This is a plan of action for **people, planet and prosperity** which also seeks to strengthen universal **peace** in larger freedom. It will be implemented by all of us acting in collaborative **partnership**. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for future generations. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world onto a sustainable footing.
8. Almost fifteen years ago, the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. These provided an important framework for development and significant progress has been made in a number of areas. But the progress has been uneven and some of the Goals remain off-track. We recommit ourselves to the full realization of the off-track MDGs. The new Agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete what these did not achieve.
9. In its scope, however, the framework we are announcing today goes far beyond the MDGs. Alongside traditional development priorities such as health, education and food security and

nutrition, it sets out a wide range of economic and environmental objectives and also promises more

peaceful, better governed and inclusive societies. Reflecting the integrated approach that we have agreed, there are deep interconnections and many cross-cutting elements across the new goals and targets.

### ***Our commitment and shared principles***

10. We recall the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new Agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Millennium Declaration; the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20"); and the latter's follow-up intergovernmental processes. We recall also the synthesis report produced by the Secretary General of the United Nations in December 2014.
11. The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

### ***Our world today***

12. We are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. There are rising inequalities within and between states. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is growing. Spiraling conflict, violence and extremism, humanitarian crises and a growing migration challenge threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Natural resource depletion and ~~adverse impacts of environmental degradation, accelerated by including drought and the prospect of irreversible climate change, are an increasing obstacle to food-water-energy security, reducing vulnerability, achieving peace among nations and peoples as well as eradicating poverty.~~ ~~add to the list of challenges which humanity faces.~~ The survival of many societies, and of the planet itself, is at risk.
13. These challenges are interrelated and call for integrated solutions. To address them effectively, a new approach is needed. Sustainable development recognizes that eradicating poverty and inequality, preserving the planet and creating inclusive economic growth are linked to each other and interdependent.
14. It is for this reason that we have decided on a set of integrated and indivisible goals which balance three crucial dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental. Furthermore, these are universal goals which transcend the traditional North/South divide and involve the entire world, rich and poor countries alike, in a new global compact for the betterment of humanity.

### ***Our vision***

15. In the goals and targets which we have agreed, we are setting out a supremely ambitious vision. We

envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want. A world, for example, of safe and nutritious food; of affordable drinking water; of universal access to basic education; of physical, mental and social well-being; where nature's role in securing all these basic needs is fully recognized. A world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity; of justice and equality; of respect for race and ethnicity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential while promoting shared prosperity. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant and inclusive world that values and conserves nature. ~~—And one in which humanity lives in complete harmony with nature.~~

### *The new Agenda*

16. We are announcing today 17 Goals with 169 associated targets. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavor across such a broad policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of "win-win" cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today's generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law.
17. This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings. It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability.
18. Working for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full rights and opportunities. This is also a basic issue of human rights. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to education and equal opportunities for employment with men and boys as well as equal access to natural resources. All forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against women and children, both boys and girls, will be combated.
19. The new goals and targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the decisions we take over the next fifteen years. All of us will work to implement the Agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels. We will at the same time take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. We will respect national policies and priorities and provide adequate policy space for economic growth, in particular for developing states. We acknowledge also the importance of the regional dimension: regional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level.
20. Each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.
21. Vulnerable sections of the population whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets include children, youth, people living with disability and older people; the needs of others who are

vulnerable, such as migrants and indigenous peoples, are also reflected. People living in areas affected by conflict, [natural disasters](#), terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies are also experiencing severe challenges.

22. We commit to providing quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. All people irrespective of gender, race or ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to learning that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities, ~~and~~ to participate fully in society [and to understand the role of nature for human prosperity](#).
23. To extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality by ending all preventable deaths of infants, children and expectant mothers by 2030. We shall ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we shall devote greater effort to tackling non-communicable diseases.
24. We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for prosperity. We will work to build dynamic, sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment in particular and decent work for all. All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. [All countries also stand to benefit from their healthy environment as their natural capital that ensures sustainable growth](#). We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, agricultural and industrial development, sustainable transport systems and modern energy provision.
25. We commit to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services. We recognize our different levels of development and capabilities and agree to work together to mobilize, from all sources, financial, technical and capacity-building support for developing countries. Governments, international organizations, the business sector, other non-state actors and individuals must contribute to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns [with the view to preserving the planets' capacity to generate an on-going supply of renewable resources and to absorb its spill over wastes](#).
26. We recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate [environmentally sound policies](#), innovation and employment. We will reduce the negative impacts of urban activities, including through the safe management and use of chemicals, the reduction and recycling of waste, ~~and~~ more efficient use of water and energy [and the protection of ecosystems providing for the services that people living in cities consume](#). And we will work to minimize the impact of cities on the global climate system.
27. We are determined to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation. The global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. Looking ahead to the COP 21 conference in Paris in December, we underscore the historic responsibility of all States to work for a meaningful and universal climate agreement which will put in place this essential component of a sustainable world. [The protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is part of](#)

~~the solution for addressing climate change. We must also safeguard our oceans and seas, protect biodiversity and promote resilience and disaster preparedness.~~

#### Additional paragraph

We recognize that none of the goals and targets will be achieved without the protection of the world's natural resources. Healthy and productive soils/lands, forests, oceans and fresh water ecosystems, achieved through conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of natural resources are the principal building blocks towards poverty eradication and universal human development and well-being. Nature-based solutions are indispensable and cost-effective complement of measures to take society to a sustainable future and a world that respects and fulfils fundamental human rights. In this context, the compliance with relevant international environmental agreements contributes directly to the achievement of the goals and targets

28. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions. These are fundamental requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as corruption, depletion of natural resources and poor governance, are addressed in the Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support countries emerging from conflict situations so as to lay the foundations for sustainable development. We commit to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.
29. We recognize the intrinsic value of diversity, culture and sport as enablers of sustainable development. We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development. We pledge to foster inter-cultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility.

#### **Implementation**

30. The new Agenda deals also with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. We recognize that these will require the mobilization of financial resources (both public and private, domestic and international) as well as capacity-building, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and a wide range of other supportive policies and measures. Business, the private sector and philanthropic organizations will feature prominently in relation to resource mobilization and implementation of the Agenda.
31. We welcome and endorse fully the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015.
32. Official Development Assistance remains important in supporting the sustainable development needs of countries and regions, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states and Africa. We shall accelerate full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Land-Locked Developing Countries.
33. We recognize the central role that science, technology and innovation play in enabling the

**Comment [IUCN3]:** The agreements mentioned in paragraph 4 of the introduction to the SDGs and targets would fit here more appropriately “the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought particularly in Africa, the third Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Forum on Forests”

international community to respond to sustainable development challenges. We recognize the power of communications technologies, technical cooperation and capacity-building for sustainable development.

34. We are committed to a well-functioning, equitable and rules-based multilateral trading system for the realization of the new Agenda. We resolve to work together to enhance macro-economic and financial stability through improved policy coordination and coherence. We resolve to reach early agreement in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations. We attach great importance to providing trade-related capacity-building for least developed countries.
35. We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy space of all countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries. We agree to work to increase the representation of developing countries, and their involvement in decision-making, in these institutions.
36. The scale and ambition of the new Agenda calls for a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership to implement it. This Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and the vulnerable. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of the goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors from all dimensions of sustainable development and mobilizing all available resources. Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships will be needed to support specific priorities under the Agenda and to mobilize the requisite resources.
37. We emphasize more generally the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in implementation of the new integrated Agenda. Governments and public institutions will work closely in this regard with national parliaments, local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations, voluntary groups and others.

#### ***Follow-up and review***

38. Our Governments will be responsible for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the goals and targets over the coming fifteen years. To support this accountability, provision has been made -and is detailed in Chapter 4 below- for systematic follow-up and review of implementation at the various levels.
39. We look forward to the development of indicators to assist this work. Quality disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly least developed countries and other countries in special situations. We also commit to scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress.

#### ***A call for action to change our world***

40. Seventy years ago, an earlier generation of world leaders came together to create the United Nations. From the ashes of war and division they fashioned this Organization and the values of peace, dialogue and international cooperation which underpin it. The supreme embodiment of those values is the



Charter of the United Nations.

41. Today we are taking a decision of comparable significance. Ours can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we are the last to have a chance of saving the planet. We have resolved to build a better future for millions of people in our world, millions who have been denied the chance to lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. The world will be a better place in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives.
42. What we are announcing today -an agenda for global action for the next fifteen years -is a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century.
43. "We the Peoples" are the celebrated opening words of the UN Charter. It is "We the Peoples" who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments, Parliaments, local authorities, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community, civil society - and ordinary citizens. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this agenda. It is an agenda by and for the people -and this, we believe, will ensure its success.
44. The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation, who will pass the torch to future generations. We have mapped the road to sustainable development; it will be for all of us to ensure that the journey is irreversible.