

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION AND CO-CHAIRS OF THE INTER AGENCY EXPERT GROUP ON THE SDGS

16th February 2016

Mr. John Pullinger
Chair, UN Statistical Commission

Ms. Lisa Bersales and Mr. Enrique Ordaz,
Co-Chairs of the IAEG -SDGs

Cc: President of General Assembly, President of ECOSOC, Chair of G77 & China, Head of Delegations (EU, AU), IAEG members and Permanent Representatives of member states.

Excellencies,

Civil society and stakeholders welcome the Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) that has made efforts to ensure that the principles of the SDGs are upheld, with technically and methodologically sound indicators.

At this point in the process, we would like to raise a number of important concerns that we as civil society have around the extent to which inputs from stakeholders have been taken into consideration. Whilst we have been providing inputs on a regular basis, we are concerned that there is a disconnect between our inputs and the proposed indicators. We feel that many of our contributions are not being taken into consideration and adequately reflected in the report. Moreover, the limited window of openness and transparency, compromises the final outcome and creates a real danger of reduction of the SDG targets.

Ahead of the second meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in Bangkok, over 100 civil society organisations and stakeholders sent an open letter to the co-chairs of the IAEG-SDGs expressing our collective concerns around the lack of transparency, inclusion and participation and setting clear red lines on issues of concern to many stakeholders across the globe. Resulting from our letter, we appreciate the improvements that have been made and that the Bangkok meeting was more open for multi stakeholder engagement and seeking the views of civil society and other stakeholders.

Over the past few months, however, we have encountered three significant issues of concern to which we would like to draw your attention:

1. Transparency and inclusion – Although the President of the General Assembly's briefing on January 28th reaffirmed the need for the upcoming processes to be fully inclusive in a meaningful way, this is not being fully realised. Our experience so far around civil society engagement and incorporation of our proposals raise questions around principles of participation, transparency and inclusion. Our experience thus far throughout the indicator process is in sharp contrast to the level of participation that led to the development of the 2030 Agenda through the Open Working Group and the post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations. It is unacceptable, for example, that agreements achieved at the second meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in Bangkok were later modified without allowing further inputs and insight.

It has been recognised in the IAEG-SDGs (E/CN.3/2016/2) Para 11 - 16 that civil society and stakeholders contributions were received. However these inputs (through online questionnaires and formal submissions) were rarely taken on-board during the deliberations of the IAEG or reflected in the outcomes, without any process for feedback, explanation or consultations.

2. Regional and Thematic indicators - As mentioned in the report of the IAEG-SDGs (E/CN.3/2016/2), paragraph 23, thematic indicators have already been developed in a number of

areas. Similarly, processes of development of regional indicators are also underway. Apparently, involvement of civil society and stakeholders in the development of these indicators with colleagues from different regions is patchy and leaves much to be desired.

3. Timeline for finalization of the Global Indicators - As the global indicators will form the core of and starting point for all other sets of indicators, one cannot underestimate the importance of getting this done correctly from the start. It is not just about setting the right benchmarks, but ensuring the right level of ambition is set, and that this is adequately tracked and measured. As you know, many of the ambitions reflected in the 2030 Agenda are a result of inputs, from millions of people across the world, in the Open Working Group and post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations. A reductionist agenda resulting from ignoring the civil society inputs on robust and strong indicators is not acceptable.

We also support the sentiments echoed by some Member States, putting into question the March 2016 deadline for the adoption of the global indicators. Given that a lot more work is needed, across all tiers of indicators, it would be prudent to take a few more months for meaningful multi-stakeholder consultations and not sacrifice quality for speed and a weak outcome.

In conclusion, we request you to consider the following:

- a. Convene regular meetings of civil society and other relevant stakeholders to brief them on the state of play, with regards to the global and regional indicator development process, how various inputs have led to substantive or marginal revisions and what opportunities are created to ensure an inclusive process.
- b. Ensure similar regional meetings are held with civil society in countries to get a briefing on the indicator development process at the regional level.
- c. Provide clarity on the process by which decisions on the “green” indicators have been made, and “grey” indicators are going to be made, including the time frame for further development of Tier III indicators with inputs from civil society and other stakeholders.
- d. Extend the time frame for the adoption from March 2016 to August 2016, still in time for the UN General Assembly discussing and adopting the final outcome.

We appreciate your efforts and hope you are able to give due consideration to our requests. For any further correspondence to this letter, please contact Savio Carvalho at Savio.Carvalho@amnesty.org or Arelys Bellorini at Arelys_Bellorini@wvi.org.

Yours Sincerely,

Endorsed by the following organisations:

Organisation	Name	Country
Abibiman Foundation	Kenneth Amoateng	Ghana
Access Info Europe	Helen Darbishire	Europe /Global
ActionAid International	Soren Ambrose	global/International
ADD International	Mosharraf Hossain	International
Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger SierraLeone	Peter John Amara	Sierra Leone
Ageing Nepal	Krishna Gautam	Nepal
Al Maun Foundation	Qasim Qazi	Pakistan
Alliance contre la Pauvreté au Mali AP/Mali/GCAP	Barry Aminata Toure	Mali
Alliance for Development	Laud Addo	Ghana
American Counselling Association	Richard Yep	USA

Amnesty International	Savio Carvalho	Global
AREI	Mamadou Djemory Diabate	Cote d'Ivoire
ARTICLE 19	David Banisar	Global
Asia Development Alliance (ADA)	Anselmo Lee	International - Asia
Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)	Rene Raya	Regional
Association for Childhood Education International (ACEi)	Elisabeth Kofler Shuman	Global/International
Association for promotion sustainable development	Mange Ram Adhana	India
Awaz Centre for Development Services	Zia Ur Rehman	Pakistan
Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)	Md. Arifur Rahman	Bangladesh
Blessed Lifeline	Theresa Frimpong	Global/International
Burundi Child Rights Coalition (BCRC)	Mignonne Ndorukwigira	Burundi
Caapost-2015/GCAP-SENEGAL	Oumar SOW OUMAR	Senegal
CAFOD	Diego Martinez-Schütt	United Kingdom
CAFSO-WRAG for Development	Tola Winjobi	Nigeria
Campaign2015+International	Tola Winjobi	Global
Candid Concepts Development	Rochelle R. Dean	Bahamas
Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)	Sixto Donato Macasaet	Philippines
CBM	Elizabeth Lockwood	International
Centre for Girls and Interaction	Pearson Chirwa	Malawi
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research	Omoyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel	Nigeria
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research	Omoyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel	Nigeria
Centre for Human Rights and Development	Urantsooj Gombosuren	Mongolia
Centre for Socio-Economic Development	Lichia Saner-Yiu	International
Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa	Theophilus Ekpon	Nigeria
Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa	Theophilus Ekpon	Nigeria
CHALLENGES / GCAP Togo	Elvis A kadri Agbayizato	Togo
Christian Aid	Helen Dennis	UK/Global
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	Amy Taylor	Global/International
Coalition Malienne pour une Gouvernance Inclusive et un Développement Durable	SABANE IBRAHIM	Mali
Community Development Initiativr	Kabir Kura Hamisu	Nigeria
construisons ensemble le monde	Gabriel marcel ikopi moleko	DRC
Convention pour l'Emergence du Sénégal - Coalition Agenda Post2015 (C.ES.- C.A.P2015)	Boubacar Diop	Senegal
CSYM HUDUMA TANZANIA*The Christian Spiritual YOUTH Ministry	Nicodemus Siayi Soko	Tanzania

Development Observer NGO coalition	Urantsooj Gombosuren	Mongolia
Earth Forever	Diana Iskreva	Bulgaria
Echoes of Women in Africa(ECOWA)	Louisa Eikhomun	Global
Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone	Peter John Amara	Sierra Leone
Emonyoye Yefwe international	Luke Kapchanga	Global/International
ENDA Tiers Monde	Jean-Philippe Thomas	Senegal
Ethical Youth International	Gregory Omorogbe	Nigeria
European Anti Poverty Network Ireland	Robin Hanan	Ireland
Excellent World Foundation	Michael Enahoro	Nigeria
FOCO Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos	Jorge Carpio	Argentina
Forum for Legal Assistance(FOLEA)	Samson Mmari	Tanzania
Foundation for the Conservation of the Earth (FOCONE)	Patrick Chiekwe	Nigeria
France Volontaires	Coline Peyre	France
Fresh Water Action Network Mexico	Nathalie Seguin	Mexico
GCAP	Dr. Nilufar Banu	Bangladesh
GCAP	Rebecca Malay	Philippines
GCAP	Pradeep Baisakh	Asia
GCAP Burundi	Aboubakar Akilimali	Burundi
GCAP Czech Republic - Česko proti chudobě	Tomáš Tožička	Czech Republic
GCAP Liberia	James Roberts S.	Liberia
GCAP Malawi / Council for NGOs in Malawi - CONGOMA	Simekina Kaluzi	Malawi
GCAP-Mauritius & Halley Movement	Mahendranath Busgopaul	Mauritius
Global Agenda for Total Emancipation (GATE)	Tim. O. C. Aniebonam	Nigeria
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	Ingo Ritz	Global
Global Campaign for Education	Anjela Taneja	Global/International
Global Forum for Media Development	Bill Orme	United States
Global Integrity	Johannes Tonn	United States
Global Peace and Development Organization / Center for Peace and Development Effectiveness/ Liberians United to Expose Hidden weapons	Samuel Chanchan	Global & International
Global Race Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria	Martns Morgan Ogwuche	Nigeria
GO GREEN STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL (GCSI)	Ako Peter Agbor	GLOBAL
GOLD ONG	Joël Houngue	Bénin
Greenpeace International	Patricia Lerner	International
HATOF Foundation	Mary Jane Enchill	Ghana
Health Poverty Action	Martin Drewry	United Kingdom
Human Rights First Rwanda Association	Louis Busingye	International

IGOROTA Foundation, Inc.	Rosella Bahni	Philippines
INFID	Sugeng Bahagijo	Indonesia
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness	Johannes Trimmel	Global/International
International association for community development	Charlie McConnell	Global
International Association of Applied Psychology	Walter Reichman	Global International
International Center for Accelerated Development	Nnadi Kevin	International
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law	Margaret Scotti	Global/International
International Disability Alliance	Orsolya Bartha	Global
International Disability and Development Consortium	Elizabeth Lockwood	International
International Movement ATD Fourth World	Cristina Diez	Global/International
International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development	Sugeng Bahagijo	International
International Society of Doctors for the Environment	Dr. Cathey Falvo, MD. MPH	United States
International Youth Council-Nigeria Chapter	Promise Ozuzu	Global
IWGIA	Marianne Wiben Jensen	Global/International
JVE International	Sena Alouka	International
Kapwa Upliftment Foundation Inc.	Alma Monica de la Paz	Philippines
Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID)	Anselmo Lee	Republic of Korea
Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons (LUEHW)	J Kofa Torbor	Liberia
MADE	Bob van Dillen	Global
Media initiatives for social Change Org.	Waqar Wains	Pakistan
Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE)	Andrea Maria Patricia Sarenas	Philippines
Minority Rights Group	Claire Thomas	Global/International
Mongolian Women's Fund	Khandarmaa Zorig	Mongolia
Nablоре Theauo Academy of Sports and Arts	Teenicee Geeplayetheauo	Liberia
Naganivatu Youth Network	John W Tamani	Fiji
Namati	Stacey Cram	International
National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO Africa)	Misheck Gondo	Regional
National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO)	MacDonald Munyoro	Zimbabwe
National Confederation of Dalit Adivasi Organisations(NACDAOR)	Sukanta Behera	India
National Ethical Service	Martha Gallahue	USA
NAYD Country Coordinator	Bayo Mohammed Onimode	Global/International
Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development - nrg4SD	Rodrigo Messias	Global
NGO: Amis des Etrangers au Togo (ADET)	Dosse Sossouga	Togo
Ohaha Family Foundation	John Ede	Nigeria

ONE (SINGAPORE)	Xiu Xuan Lim	Singapore
ONG Carbone Guinée	Ibrahima Sory Sylla	Guinée
Open Knowledge Foundation Germany	Claudia Schwegmann	Germany
Pacificwin	Pefi Kingi	International
Pacificwin-Australia	Fuatai Williams	International
Pacificwin-Youth	Tamm Kingi-Falako	International
Pakistan Development Alliance -PDA	Sadia Saeed	Pakistan
Pakistan Development Alliance -PDA	Zia ur Rehman	Pakistan
Pakistan NGOs Forum	Mohammad Ismail	Pakistan
Passionists International	Mirosław Lesiecki	Global/International
Philippine Social Enterprise Network	Gomer Padong	Philippines
Plan International	Amanda Lundy	Global/International
PNG Education Advocacy Network	Priscilla Kare	Papua New Guinea
Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group	Gill Greer	Global
PRAJACO	Hilary F. Smith	Jamaica
Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth Switzerland	Friedrich Wulf	Switzerland
Projonma Academy	Mohammad Shahidur Rahman	Bangladesh
Radanar Ayar Rural Development Association	Thura Aung	Myanmar
Restless Development	Sarah Haynes	Global/International
Right to Education Project	Delphine Dorsi	Global/International
Saferworld	Thomas Wheeler	United Kingdom
Sanayee Development Organization - SDO	Ahmad Abid Humayun	Afghansitan
Sensitization Centre	Abdul Samad Said	Ghana
Sightsavers	Andrew Griffiths	United Kingdom
Sisters of Charity Federation	Teresa Kottura	United States of America
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur	Jean Stoner	International
SLoCaT Partnership	Cornie Huizenga	Global/International
Society for International Development (SID)	Stefano Prato	Global/International
Society of catholic Medical Missionaries	Celine Paramunda	International
Solar Cookers International	Arline Lederman	International
SOLIDARITE DES FEMMES BURUNDAISES POUR LUTTER CONTRE LE SIDA ET LE PALUDISME AU BURUNDI	Espérance Ntirampeba	Burundi
SOSURWO FONDS KENYA ORGANIZATION	Stephen Cheboi	KENYA
SUNFO (Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation)	Deshapriya Wijetunge	Sri Lanka
SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION	January Mvula	Malawi
TANEPHA	Alex Margery	Tanzania

TERRE DES JEUNES DU BURUNDI- TRANSNATIONAL	Jean Nkeshimana	Burundi
Tfins and SDS	Anohar John	India
The Atlas Alliance	Trine Riis-Hansen	Norway
The NGO FORUM on Cambodia	Vannara Tek	Cambodia
Transdiaspora Network	Ariel Rojas	Local
UCLG/ LAMG co-organising partner	Natalène Poisson	Global
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	Kimbowa Richard	Uganda
UNANIMA International	Michele Morek	United States
United Religions Initiative...	Martha Gallahue	Gobal -99 countries
Universal Rights Group Africa	Subhas Gujadhur	International
Universal Rights Network	Kim Gleeson	Australia
Vagahau Niue Trust	Mele Nemaia	International
VSO	Priya Nath	United Kingdom
WARBE Development Foundation	Syed Saiful Haque	Bangladesh
Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative	Mojisola Akinsanya	Nigeria/Africa
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)	Lara Cousins	Global/International
Workers and Trade Unions Major Group	Matthew Simonds	Internatioal
World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)	Maribel Ullmann	Global/International
World Team Now	Suzanne Maxx	United States
World Vision	Arelys Bellorini	Global
Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG)	Emmanuel Ametepey	Ghana
YOWLI BURUNDI	Desire Habonimana	Burundi