IUCN’s views on the Zero Draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda (June 2015)

18 June 2015

IUCN welcomes the Zero Draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda released on 2 June 2015 and recognises the long path traversed and achievements since the Rio+20 conference in 2012. Indeed, the current outcome document is the result of intensive work undertaken by negotiators, the UN secretariat and stakeholders and there is much to feel proud of.

At this stage of the process, IUCN is very much looking to maintaining the level of integration achieved in the SDGs and targets all throughout the different tracks of discussion. It is in this light that the Union provides hereby its comments on the circulated zero draft.

The following are the highlights of each of the elements:

Declaration: while the declaration contains the main elements, it still needs much strengthening, particularly in the articulation of the interconnectedness between humanity and nature and the role of nature to ensure the achievement of sustainable development. Specific text is provided in track changes directly in the Zero Draft document (annexed to this paper) as well as highlighted in the present document.

I - The SDGs and targets: IUCN encourages countries to keep them as they are with the level of integration already reflected and that only the numerical gaps (x and y) are filled.

II - Place holder for outcome of the Financing for Development conference: IUCN hopes that coherence between the Means of Implementation and the outcome of the 3rd Conference on financing for development will be attained.

III- Follow up and Review: IUCN welcomes the progress made on this issue and looks forward to further contributing to the design of the mechanism. IUCN endorses the principled presented but considers that some of the language could be tightened in order to reflect more commitment.

Annex I (proposed target revisions): as mentioned above, IUCN wishes that the revision allows for filling in the numerical gaps and/or to harmonise the targets with other commitments already agreed to by the international community. The present document presents language on those targets of particular interest to IUCN.

IUCN has no comments at this stage on Annexes 2 and 3.
**General views**

IUCN strongly welcomes the set of SDGs and targets in the package which has been the result of much discussions and efforts since the beginning of the discussions. The different parts of the document express the importance of integration of all the dimensions of sustainable development. Of particular importance is paragraph 2 of the introduction of the SDGs and targets which underlines the nature of the framework as being “integrated and indivisible”, “global” and “universal.”

There are several elements contained in the Declaration that merit commending. Firstly, it recognises the importance of the international body on Human Rights as well as the sustainable development principles embedded in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. In addition, IUCN commends the reference to the agenda as being universal, integrative and indivisible which is also contained in paragraph 14 of the declaration, but stresses that these underlying principles need to be explicitly articulated throughout the document. Also, IUCN welcomes the level of aspiration of some paragraphs, including the reference to this document as the “charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century” (paragraph 41), which could become the overarching title of the document.

The language of the Declaration as well as some elements of the Follow-up and Review mechanism could benefit from enhancements, especially in regards to reflecting the level of integration mentioned above. The Declaration, in particular, is drafted in a manner, where nature remains quite separate from the equation of development; despite the acknowledgement of the need for integration in the text. Currently, the existing interlinkages are not sufficiently enunciated in the text. Consequently, the linkages of the SDGs and targets are not properly justified by the Declaration as it stands. Specific text on the declaration and other elements are presented below and in the Zero Draft document itself with track-changes as attached.

**Concrete text proposals**

**Declaration**

The objective of the declaration should be a) to express the level of commitment and aspiration that governments are placing on the whole post-2015 development agenda; b) to portray the rationale behind the SDGs framework and accompanying elements; and c) to recall the fundamental principles upon which the frameworks is built and should be implemented.

a) **Level of commitment and aspiration that governments are placing on the whole post-2015 development agenda:** the tone of the text should express a high level of commitment. For example, in paragraph 2, there should be a bold statement that “the achievement of these goals will transform for the better the world in which we all live”. Equally, in paragraph 4, it is more appropriate to replace “wish to see” by “We commit to achieve”. (see track-changes in the attached Annex)

b) **Rationale behind the SDGs framework and accompanying elements:** although there is explicit reference to the need of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, the text of the Declaration falls back into reflecting different development-related issues in a disconnected manner, like the MDGs framework. It is important that, in addition to expressing the level of ambition, the Declaration also explicitly underlines the interconnectedness of all the issues included in the framework to demonstrate its “indivisibility”, as expressed in paragraph 14. The changes suggested in the attached document intend to provide explicit language to express that nature degradation leads to more poverty, food-water-energy insecurity, inequality and conflict. And vice-versa, protecting nature is protecting the infrastructure that provides for water, food, energy, equality, peace. While this is to a certain level clear in the SDGs and targets themselves, it is not well articulated in the text of the Declaration. IUCN therefore proposes the attached changes to the text of the declaration.

c) **Fundamental principles upon which the framework is built and should be implemented:** the Millennium Declaration adopted in 2000, started by “Values and Principles”. IUCN believes that the values and principles of this framework should be included, such as those proposed by the UN
Secretary General in his Synthesis report launched in late 2014 as essential elements for delivering on the SDGs:

**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

These could be included in the Preamble replacing the list of goals set out in its second paragraph. As it stands, the list presented may be misleading as portraying prevalence of one issue over another, whereas the six essential elements are more like principles that underpin the entire post-2015 development agenda.

IUCN is presenting some specific text suggestions on the Declaration in track changed form in the document attached. For the other parts of the zero draft documents, suggestions are proposed below.

### Follow Up and Review

IUCN attaches great importance to the Follow up and Review mechanism as, according to vast literature, one of the main reasons for shortcomings in achieving sustainable development over the past decades has been the lack of rigorous accountability mechanisms. In addition, evaluation of the challenges in achieving the MDGs at the lack of reporting by countries. In light of this, while IUCN believes that this mechanism should be state-led (see IUCN’s Position paper on follow-up and review), it proposes to replace language referring to “voluntary” mechanism by language that reflects that States will endeavour to make every effort to report on progress to achieve the SDGs and targets as per the established mechanism. In light of this, the following changes are suggested:

- **Paragraph 2**
  “All member states will endeavor to make every effort to actively participate in review processes, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.”

- **Paragraph 5**
  “Each member state could will, at least once every four years, conduct robust and inclusive reviews of progress based on a publicly available government progress report and complemented by contributions from civil society, academia, local government, the UN system, private sector and other actors...”

- **Paragraph 9**
  “We reaffirm that the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, shall carry out regular reviews of progress in line with Resolution 67/290. Reviews will be voluntary while shall -encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities. ...”

The purpose of reinforcing states’ participation in the follow up and review mechanism is not to “name and shame” those countries not reflecting progress, but rather to identify achievements and challenges to mobilize further action.

With regards to ensuring integration also at the follow-up and review level, IUCN is concerned that the proposal for thematic reporting may create the silos that are trying to be avoided in this new framework. Every effort should be made to ensure that those reporting on the different issues (goals and targets) work in cooperation with those actors from other areas that are intimately related. One way to address this (and taking into account that there are many issues to report on) is to create a system of rotating clusters of issues/goals. IUCN is analysing options for such a system together with other partners.
IUCN proposes to amend a couple of the introductory paragraphs to the SDGs, in particular, paragraph 5 which seems to exacerbate the fragmented nature of international policy by making reference to “independent mandates” among other. It is therefore amend as follows:

- Merge para 4 and 5
  
  “It is important to recognize the link between **sustainable development** the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant ongoing processes. We resolve to promote universal and holistic coherence among international commitments for sustainable development. This agenda and other international processes should be mutually reinforcing such as 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.

  We encourage ongoing efforts by states in other fora to address key issues which pose potential challenges to the implementation of our Agenda; and we respect the independent mandates of those processes. We intend that the Agenda and its implementation would support, and be without prejudice to, those other processes and the decisions taken therein.”

**Annex 1: Proposed Target revisions**

IUCN welcomes that the SDGs were included in their entirety and urges States to integrate any eventual revisions as soon as possible. IUCN believes that any such revision should be done solely to add more precision to those targets that are currently containing a placeholder instead of a measurable value and/or to harmonise the targets with other commitments already agreed to by the international community, ensuring that these commitments do not lower the standards of previously agreed ones.

**X’s, numerical values, specificity**

- Target 15.2
  
  “By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, and by 2030, halt deforestation, and restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and increase reforestation by 350 million hectares globally”

  This is a figure taken from the New York Declaration on Forests of last year that has a 2030 timeline and provides for an achievable and clear target, which is more measurable than the proposed reference to “substantially”.

**Consistency with international agreements**

- Target 15.1
  
  “Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services by 2020, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements, and take further action as needed by 2030 with increased efforts until 2030.”

  This is to ensure consistency with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and continued action beyond 2020.

- Target 15.5
  
  “Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species, and take further action as needed by 2030 with increased efforts until 2030.”

  This is to ensure consistency with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and continued action beyond 2020.

Please refer to IUCN’s website for all previous position papers on the SDGs: [www.iucn.org/SDGs](http://www.iucn.org/SDGs)
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, 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, just, and inclusive societies;
- Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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.
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. It will be realized The achievement of these goals, that 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 achieving wishes to see the goals and targets met for 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 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
envision 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 combatted.

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 fulfills 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
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.