

2nd SESSION

Sustainable development goals and targets...An Arab regional Perspective

Comments and proposals

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General comments -1-

- Timing/ we're running out of time. There's an urgent need to accelerate the finalization of the regional process of identification of goals from an Arab perspective.
- Need for coordination with Arab negotiators in new York. Building alliances
- After a 12 month stocktaking phase during which several priority areas have been highlighted, the process in New York is now in its second phase(proposing goals and targets) that will be culminated with the last phase (negotiation phase with the view of preparing the report to be submitted to the 68th session of the GA, for its consideration.
- The OWG/SDGs initiated this Monday an in-depth consideration of the 19 focus areas proposed by the Co-chairs. **The objective is to consolidate and cluster them whenever is possible.**

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The co-chairs 19 focus areas/ 8 clusters/247 sub areas (Targets and indicators)

- **Cluster 1/**
 - **Focus area 1. Poverty eradication**
 - **Focus area 2. Promote equality**
- **Cluster 2/**
 - **Focus area 3. Health and population dynamics**
 - **Focus area 4. Education**
 - **Focus area 5. Gender equality and women's empowerment**
 - **Focus area 6. Employment and decent work for all**

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The 19 focus areas (cont)

- **Cluster 3/**
 - **Focus area 7 Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition**
 - **Focus area 8 Water and sanitation**
- **Cluster 4/**
 - **Focus area 9. Industrialization**
 - **Focus area 10. Infrastructure**
 - **Focus area 11.. Economic growth**
 - **Focus area 12. Energy**

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The 19 focus areas (cont)

- **Cluster 5/**

- Focus area 13. Sustainable cities and human settlements
- Focus area 14. Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Focus area 15. Climate

- **Cluster 6/**

- Focus area 16. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas
- Focus area 17. Ecosystems and biodiversity

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The 19 focus areas (cont)

- **Cluster 7/**

- Focus area 18. Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development

- **Cluster 8/**

- Focus area 19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

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Arab perspective

- There are **10 goals/ 58 targets** proposed from an Arab regional perspective.
- Goal 1 End poverty and hunger (cluster 1 and 3)
- Goal 2 create decent jobs (Cluster 2)
- Goal3 Provide quality education and lifelong learning for all (Cluster 2)
- Goal 4 Empower girls and women, achieve gender equality and the full realization of women's human rights (cluster 2)

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Arab perspective

- Goal 5 Ensure healthy lives Cluster 2
- Goals 6 secure access to water, sanitation and energy and promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources (clusters 4,3,6 (marine resources)
- Goal 7 promote sustainable food production (cluster 5 consumption and production, cluster 3 sustainable agriculture and food security)

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Arab perspective

- Goal 8 Ensure quality housing and infrastructure services in rural and urban settlements (cluster 5/ sust cities and human settlements, and cluster 4/infrastructure)
- Goal 9 secure peaceful societies and effective institutions (cluster 8)
- Goal 10 Advance global partnership for sustainable development (cluster 7)

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Arab perspective –vs- co-chairs proposed focus areas

- In general, we can say that the proposed Arab goals form an integral part of the international community aspirations ,
- They also respect the conditions set up in Rio+20 outcome:
 - Action-oriented
 - Concise
 - Easy to communicate
 - Limited in number
 - Aspirational
 - Global in nature
- Universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.
- Compared with the proposals submitted by co-chairs of OWG/SDGs, Some areas are missing such as **Economic growth, industrialization, climate, Ecosystems and biodiversity, promoting equality and promoting sustainable consumption.**

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Adding more goals and taking out others

- In my view, we need to reconsider our initial proposal with a view to adding some of these goals such as industrialization, economic growth and climate that are essential to the development of our region.
- We should call as well for a goal on promoting equity and justice at the national and international levels, it's a crucial condition for promoting the three dimensions of sustainable development and achieving progress on all potential SDGs including poverty eradication, access to water , health and education, It's also a crucial condition to promoting sustainable peaceful and non-violent societies,
- Even though some areas enjoy a large consensus such as poverty eradication, employment, water and health, other areas don't gather even a minimum level of consensus and could jeopardize the process such as the issues of peaceful and non violent societies and rule of law.???

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MOI/ Enabling international environment for sustainable development

- Due to the externalities and impacts of external factors, sustainable development could not be achieved at the national level, without an enabling international environment. **There should be as well an other goal on securing an enabling international environment for sustainable development** (this is not necessarily MOI, it could include putting forward the right policies that have positive external impacts,...).
- Arab perspective should be more specific on MOI and proposals should be based on datas and scientific basis and estimation of costs. (In particular in areas such as infrastructure, food security, health and industrialization).

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Narrative part

- In addition to proposals related to goals and targets, **the arab perspective should include a narrative part** that highlights the principles underlying the SDGs including Rio principles in particular the principle of Special but differentiated responsibilities that should be applied to the three dimensions of SD, respect for national sovereignties, and cultural and religious diversities.
- Furthermore, the burden in achieving SDGs and targets seem to be put on shoulders of governments, the narrative should highlight as well responsibilities and duties of all stakeholders, at the national (youth, NGO, private sector, ..) and international level (UN system, multinationals, IFI, development Partners, occupying power, ...) in realizing the goals and targets, while fully respecting the principle of CBDR for each goal.

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Potential additional targets

- **Additional targets that could be proposed include:**
- means of implementation should be formulated into targets to be linked with the realization of each goal,
- **End extreme Poverty eradication and hunger (Obj 1)**
- Commit to enhance cooperation and information sharing related foreign stolen assets and facilitate more systematic and timely return of these assets
- A potential additional target would be reducing corruption at the national and international levels and ensuring equitable taxation and redistribution of assets
- Appropriate MOI should include international public aid (more than 0.7% of GDP) , countries in specific situations to be added to countries eligible for development assistance, and new commitments related to market access , technology transfer, migration and employment (facilitating international movement of physical persons regardless of their qualification), capacity building human and productive capacities, and infrastructure, scientific and education, commitments on enhancing cooperation and information sharing related to returning foreign stolen assets, enhancing transparency of banks proceedings and systems
- See next....

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Potential additional targets

- **Providing social protection and social protection floors, an estimation of the cost of such target should be done, as well as the potential sources of providing such funds**
- Ensuring adequate policy space for food security.
- Increase international support for net food importing developing countries, including in the areas of finance, transfer of agricultural technologies, infrastructure and water.
- **Health (obj 5)**
- Provide more flexibilities to NFDCs in food subsidies policies
- Facilitate and increase access of small farmers to national and global food markets as well as to credit and other financial services

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Potential additional targets

- Need for an assessment of universal health coverage on DC public budget, in particular countries in special situation
- Addressing causes of NCDs and Reducing non communicable diseases, including through access for all to affordable medicines and enhancement of knowledge sharing
- Increasing investments in health systems in rural areas
- Addressing regional development .
- **There's no consensus on sexual rights. Including this concept will jeopardize the process.**
- **More attention should be given to economic empowerment of woman in particular widows and divorced woman as well as woman under foreign occupation**

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