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Note to the Secretary-General

**Eleventh session of the Open Working Group on SDGs
(5 – 9 May 2014)**

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14-04027

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The eleventh session of the OWG took place from 5 to 9 May 2014. The group had before it a working document consisting of 16 focus areas and some 150 associated targets, as well as a compilation document detailing proposals made on the previous version, which contained 19 focus areas. While the working document itself was generally well-received, developing countries stressed repeatedly that the time had come to commence intergovernmental negotiations. They also underlined, as in previous instances, the importance of adequate means of implementation in relation to each focus area. As before, the OWG continued its engagement with civil society by holding morning meetings with Major Groups and other stakeholders.

The session ended on a high note, with delegations greeting the Co-Chairs' proposal on the way forward with acclaim. The Co-Chairs will issue a zero draft on 27 May, which will contain one more (the 17th) goal on promoting equality, responding to calls from many delegations, as well as a number of additional targets reflecting proposals made from the floor. Responding to calls from the G77 and China, the Co-Chairs will also convene three days of "informal-informals" in the week prior to the June session (16-20), in the process removing a potential stumbling block to progress. The Co-Chairs intend to proceed by obtaining agreement on targets one by one. In many cases, especially the MDG-related goals, differences are minimal. They also intend to retain the current open method of work of the OWG.

There appears to be convergence on the goals, with the exception of how to deal with MOI and the global partnership, as well as a goal on Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions. Developing countries, with some exceptions, remain implacably opposed to the inclusion of a peace-related goal; on the other hand, there appears to a greater openness towards considering targets on capable institutions and rule of law. Most countries would like to see climate change mainstreamed under other goals, arguing that this course of action would be effective and would avoid any duplication or clash with the UNECCC. Nonetheless, a number of delegations emerged as forceful advocates of a stand-alone goal, notably the group of LDCs and the Pacific small island States. The Co-Chairs have stated that they will retain the climate change goal, in the belief that this question would benefit from further consideration.

The session revealed that the process is set to enter a more overtly political phase, in which a key challenge will be isolating and addressing politically contentious issues and retaining the transformative elements embedded in the working document.

ents in the OWG.

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Subject: Note from Mr. Wu – Eleventh session of the Open Working Group on SDGs (5-9 May 2014)	Date: <u> </u> Comment (if applicable): <u> </u>	Date: <u> </u>
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WU Hongbo
12 May 2014

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Note to the Secretary-General

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(5 – 9 May 2014)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

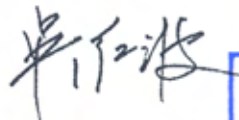
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The session revealed that the process is set to enter a more overtly political phase, in which a key challenge will be isolating and addressing politically contentious issues and retaining the transformative elements embedded in the working document.

I will continue to keep you fully informed of developments in the OWG.



WU Hongbo
12 May 2014

cc: Deputy Secretary-General

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MAY 23 2014

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SG OFFICE

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