



## **NGO MG statement**

*(Leida Rijnhout - EEB – OP MG NGO)*

Thank you co-chair: I'm speaking on behalf of the NGO MG:

When in Rio, **NGOs welcomed the SDGs as a vehicle to overcome the shortcomings of the MDGs**. We also hoped that the time for a **Copernican revolution** had arrived and that the world was ready for a new paradigm on the meaning of development and its intense relation to the environment. We were eager to read the report of the OWG, and although a lot of good points are made, we **still feel a little disappointed**. We are missing the historical opportunity to put Sustainable Development in the heart of all policies, instead of sustaining “the global economy”, that is anyhow for 95 % virtual, only serves the richer groups and is based on lots of speculation.

**NGOs stressed** the need for a systemic change, social innovation, alternative business models, visionary leadership, a rights based approach, and new innovative mechanisms for financing. **NGOs shared many new ideas**, practical proposals, and tools for implementation, which we don't see reflected in the text. We now look forward to sharing with the Open Working Group our proposals for each of the Focus Areas that we are now preparing.

Furthermore we would like to emphasise that **existing international agreements must not be overruled or weakened by the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**.

Rather, frames and goals should build on existing United Nations declarations, agreements and conventions, and bring renewed energy in their implementation and close existing gaps.

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda has to be based on commitment, accountability and human rights, including other aspects like full implementation of the polluter-pays principle and precautionary approach, appropriate transparency mechanisms, regular reviews, collective pressure and the option of holding states and private sector responsible and accountable for non-compliance.

For international leadership and monitoring, **existing specialised UN-bodies should have an important role on the relevant issues** (WHO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, ..). This will give a stronger mandate to those bodies, as well a **coherent framework for their future work**.

The High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development **should take a strong coordinating and facilitating role** in the overall review and implementation of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The SDGs must, without exceptions, be **universal** (as we stated Monday) but can be broken down in national targets and strategies on the national and local levels. Those targets and indicators have to be presented and implemented in **National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSSD)**. All goals have to be covered in all nations, but depending on needs and possibilities, the strategies can be different.

At last, but not at least: on the national and local level the NGOs are prepared and willing to support the achievement of sustainable societies worldwide.

Thank you.