

UK NGO CSW Alliance

c/o NAWO, National Alliance of Women's Organisations
 United House, North Road, London N7 9DP
Csw-alliance@nawo.org.uk

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Rt Hon Philip Hammond, Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
 Rt. Hon Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development
 David Hallam, Special Envoy on Post-2015, DFID

Madam, Sirs,

We write following the appointment of the new co-facilitators of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We welcome the mix achieved of continuity and of new thinking by the reappointment of Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya and of the new appointment of David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland.

At a meeting¹ at which members of the Alliance were present, the outgoing co-facilitators made a number of important points. In particular Mr Kamau emphasized three words he saw as crucial to understanding the proposed SDGs: ambitious, transformative, and universal. He invited participants to use their imaginations and picture a world without poverty, diseases, and hunger, ***where women and men are equal*** (our stress), where society is truly inclusive, businesses are responsible, and ecosystems are appreciated, and a world where countries are equal, cities are places of great culture, and peace is the norm. "Imagine that," he said. "Those are the Sustainable Development Goals. That is the level of ambition we have set ourselves." He went on to stress the need for transformative goals that improve the entire social, economic, and political realities of life, and universal goals that hold everyone accountable for achieving them and implementing sustainable development. "We are all equally responsible for transforming our world together," he stressed.

We strongly support this visionary but also achievable statement.

We are writing now on behalf of the UK NGO CSW Alliance which consists of some 100 women's and development organizations - both international and

¹ 'Humanity at a Crossroad: How to Shape a New Sustainable Development Trajectory.' The Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, 13 October 2014, New York, US.

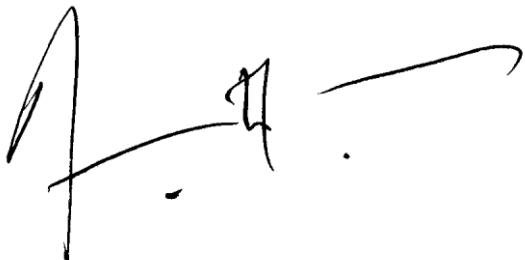
domestic; we share a belief that transformative and universal gender equality goals and targets based on a rights perspective cross-cutting in impact, should be central to the new agenda.

This concern leads us to ask, because it remains unclear, what the role is that the co-facilitators will play in arriving at the organization and modalities for the negotiations leading up to the Summit?

Looking at the process to be used for the preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development it is unclear as to what, if any, access NGOs/CSOs will have to the three drafting sessions. We wish to propose and strongly advocate for a PrepCom process, as this has, in the past, included NGO participation in observer status. The Major Groups participated in the case of the PrepComs for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and are currently deeply involved in the processes leading up to Beijing+20 to be held at the UN at CSW59 in New York.

To date there has also been successful participation of CSOs in the process of the Open Working Group. To meet Mr Kamau's vision, the post-2015 process must include the expertise and voice of non-governmental actors. We therefore urge you all to press for the fullest NGO/CSO participation.

Yours sincerely,



Annette Lawson OBE
Co-chair



Zarin Hainsworth, OBE
Co-chair