

This statement was not delivered in Plenary due to time constraints.

NGO Major Group Closing Statement for OWG13

On behalf of the NGO Major Group, we would like to commend the co-chairs for your tremendous leadership, commitment and determination to guide Member States through what has been a long, challenging and often difficult process. You have fostered an atmosphere of collegiality, cooperation, and compromise throughout the OWG proceedings and you have done so with both grace and humor.

In particular, we would like to thank-you - Ambassador Korosi and Ambassador Kamau - and your teams - for establishing and supporting an open, inclusive and participatory process for civil society to engage in these discussions. Indeed, you have put into practice what so many of us have advocated for under Goal 16.

We would also like to thank those Member States who have supported our participation in the process – both in your direct interventions – and in your willingness to discuss our concrete proposals, suggestions and recommendations. Even when we have not agreed, we have appreciated and valued your candid views, exchange of ideas and openness to dialogue with civil society.

In particular, we thank the Ambassadors of Bolivia on behalf of the G77+China, the United States, Sweden and Tanzania for their recognition of civil society's collective contribution to the OWG process and proposal.

We do hope that our presence and engagement has sent a strong message to ALL Member States, not just of our commitment to the issues that can improve the lives of people and planet – but indeed, of our commitment to implement an ambitious and transformative sustainable development agenda with you.

And while we pause for a moment... to catch our breath, to catch a flight or to catch up on sleep (or indeed all 3)... we remind Member States that nothing is achieved until action is taken on the ground to improve the lives of the people for whom this agenda matters the most. We urge you to keep these people at the heart of the agenda and in the forefront of your minds as you go forward.

We look forward to engaging with you in the upcoming negotiations on the Post-2015 development agenda, to helping you implement bold and ambitious goals and targets and - of course - to holding you accountable for delivering a universal and transformative agenda that truly leaves no one behind.

Thank-you.