

21 January 2015

Statement from the Science and Technology Major Group

Delivered by Anne-Sophie Stevance, International Council for Science

The Science and Technology Major Group welcomes the UN Secretary General's synthesis report and the Open Working Group. They provide a strong basis for defining a Post-2015 Development Agenda **that integrates people-centered social and economic objectives with stewardship of our global environment.**

SDGs

With four of the goals (climate, water, ecosystems, oceans) addressing global environmental issues, the SDGs balance the 3 dimensions of SD. Besides, they have the potential to be transformative as they address structural barriers and drivers of change including inequality, consumption patterns and institutional capacity.

To ensure their effective implementation, we would like to stress the importance of **measurable targets and scientifically rigorous indicators**

The scientific community is committed to assist in any technical consolidation of targets and the development of indicators. The International Council for Science has completed a "**Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals**" providing science-based recommendations to strengthen the targets and inform their monitoring and implementation.

Robust indicators will be essential to effectively measure progress and help steer policy development. This will rely on disaggregated data, capacities to use data, cooperation to disseminate data and knowledge, and research where new metrics are needed.

On Means of Implementation

We would like to emphasize the **crucial importance of knowledge from science as part of the solution** to sustainable development challenges, alongside technology, policies and coordinated action from all sectors. Science can help identify critical inter-linkages, synergies and trade-offs between the different dimensions of sustainable development, assess progress made, test solutions, identify emerging risks.

Science has also applications that can provide concrete tools to support policy development and enhance monitoring capacities. As an example, **Geographic Information Systems** deliver data at different scales related to issues such as water, food, energy, transportation, agriculture, health and can support evidence-based decision-making. GIS will allow the international community to visually explore localized data for use in planning sustainable solutions, in SDG **indicator**, and scenarios to analyze impact assessments.

It is Important to operationalize global partnership by developing concrete mechanisms for collaboration— one example is the transdisciplinary research programme Future Earth. Future Earth provides a global platform for scientists to **co-design and co-produce** knowledge with policy-makers and stakeholders on the global sustainability challenges to address questions such as: What are possible pathways to achieve the SDGs? And what are the key drivers and enablers that can foster transformational change?

Synergies with other intergovernmental processes - Finally, we would like to support strong linkages between the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the new international agreement on climate change. **The three**

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agendas depend on each other to succeed. Scientific research and practitioner experience have shown that disasters, development and poverty are intimately linked. Destruction of assets and livelihoods in disasters set back hard-won development gains and worsen or re-entrench poverty. Disaster impacts are growing, amplified by rapid growth and unsustainable development practices that increase the exposure and vulnerabilities of communities and capital assets. Implementation and integrated monitoring and review should promote connectivity between these agendas.

To be truly evidence-based and innovation-driven, the Post-2015 Development Agenda needs to be grounded on data and solutions-oriented science.

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ANNEX



Statement Input to Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations

January 19-21, 2015

The Institute for Conscious Global Change feels there needs to be a marriage between statistics and geography. Geospatial and communication tools and a participatory bottom-up approach are highly recommended.

As a Means of Implementation (MOI), we believe that geospatial science and technology innovation can and should be major drivers of social and economic development and are fundamental for all countries' efforts to achieve capacity building and sustainable development.

Geographic information Systems (GIS) and enabling platforms like the geodesign method have become key contributors to improved decision making and policy formulation, and have enhanced the capability for governments, international organizations and researchers to analyze, monitor and report on sustainable development and other global concerns.

Organized in a free and open software environment, such a global database will inform sustainable development agenda, strategy and monitoring based on a body of trusted, reliable and authoritative geospatial data. Such a database would be technical in nature, and will not address issues of political concern. It is important to compile the data in support of our Sustainable Goals and Targets from the bottom-up.

GIS and enabling platforms will also help us to eliminate poverty by planning out water, food, energy, transportation, agriculture, health, and communication resources to provide cost-benefit analyses for education, health, gender equality, biodiversity in the light of climate change.

In contrast to other tools, only GISs are able to process data at multiple spatial scales, and do so by addressing the conflicting needs of context specifics to address local variation and standardization to have comparable measures.

ICGC will be happy to assist with the development of a support infrastructure (personnel as well as best practices) but it is important to acknowledge the necessity for all organizations represented in the post-2015 development agenda to be able to

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contribute their own views and values of what constitutes a good and decent quality of life for everyone.

We are also recommending that by 2020 all governments engage their countries at the national, regional and local levels in coming up with a comprehensive development plan to ensure that no one is left behind and that the citizens have a voice in the development of their country, especially women and the youth.

The Institute for Conscious Global Change

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