

Save the Children's Recommendations on the Revised Zero Draft of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals *Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development (3 July 2014)*

Save the Children welcomes the Open Working Group's revised draft of proposed goals and targets for sustainable development. The document represents a significant improvement on the previous zero draft, with a more coherent, refined set of targets capable of ending extreme poverty within a generation. There is scope however, to further refine the list of targets to a maximum of five per goal area and to improve language to ensure a truly transformative, universal and ambitious set of SDGs.

This document outlines Save the Children's recommendations for priority targets and suggests concrete language amends for the final zero draft. Priority targets have been selected based on their ability to be *transformative* in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development, *universal*, *measurable* and *implementable*. Targets that *must* be taken forward are marked as CRITICAL TARGET. Recommended language amends are marked in *red*. These recommendations are based on Save the Children's proposed goals, targets and indicators outlined in our report [Framework for the Future](#).

Priority recommendations

1. Eradicate extreme poverty

- **Prioritize zero goals and targets to eradicate critical dimensions of extreme poverty within a generation**, including those to: eradicate preventable newborn, under-five and maternal mortality; end hunger and achieve food and nutrition security for all; ensure quality education for all; secure water, sanitation and modern energy for all; and end violence against children.
- **Increase the ambition of Target 1.1 to eradicate extreme income poverty, ensuring that zero people live on less than \$2.00 a day by 2030, rather than \$1.25.** This would attest to the transformative ability of the SDGs, focusing attention on an additional 1.2 billion of the world's poorest people.

2. Embed equity at the core of the framework to ensure no child is left behind

- **Commit, in the Chapeau, to pursue an equitable approach to achieving the goals and targets**, putting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized first.
- **Pledge, in the Chapeau, to set interim national 'stepping stone' equity targets for all goal areas** to ensure that disadvantaged groups are on track to achieve 2030 targets and that gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged groups are closing.
- **Commit, in the Chapeau and Target 17.15 on disaggregated data, that that no target will be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.**
- **Strengthen equity in the Universal Health Coverage and education targets**, with a commitment to close the gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged groups.
- **Retain targets on income inequality, gender equality, social protection and decent work.**

3. Build open, inclusive and accountable governance, and eliminate violence against children

- **Retain and strengthen the proposed goal on peaceful societies, with clear language in the goal on the promotion of open, inclusive and accountable governance.**
- **Retain and strengthen Target 16.2 on eliminating violence against children.**

Chapeau

The chapeau must contain a stronger commitment to embed equity at the core of the new framework in order to reduce inequalities that threaten the achievement of all goals and to ensure that no one is left behind in a post-2015 world.

- Paragraph 11 should be expanded to include the full text of paragraph 11 from the *Future We Want*. *The following phrase should thus be added: ...and the protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education.*
- Recommended text addition to embed equity:
We commit to pursuing an equitable approach to achieving sustainable development goals and targets, putting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people first. To achieve greater equity, we encourage 'stepping stone' national interim equity targets alongside each goal between now and 2030. We agree that no target will be considered met unless it is met for all age, income, gender, ethnic, geographical and disability groups and we commit to take urgent steps to improve the disaggregation, quality, coverage and availability of data.
- The following amendment should also be made to the second to last paragraph:
We also acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development goals will depend on the active engagement of all public and private stakeholders. *All parties involved in delivering the goals must adhere to their responsibilities as set out by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.* A robust mechanism of implementation review will be essential for the success of the SDGs. The High Level Political Forum is to play a key role in this regard.

Critical targets and recommended language amendments

Proposed Goal 1. End poverty everywhere

CRITICAL TARGET - 1.1 by 2030, bring to zero the number of people living in extreme poverty **at \$2.00 a day**¹, currently estimated at less than \$1.25 a day in low income countries

CRITICAL TARGET - 1.2 by 2030, reduce by at least half the proportion of people of all ages living below **absolute and relative**² national poverty definitions

CRITICAL TARGET - 1.3 by 2030, implement **universal** nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors, with a focus on coverage of the poor, **children, the most marginalized** and people in vulnerable situations

1.4 by 2030 secure equal access for all men and women, particularly those most in need, to basic services, **and ensure** their right to own land and property, **and access** productive resources and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations to disasters, shocks and climate-related extreme events

¹ The \$1.25 poverty line (an average of the poverty lines of the world's 15 poorest countries) is not sufficient to meet people's basic human rights and needs. Aiming to eradicate income poverty at this level will undermine the ambition of the SDGs and their ability to transform the lives of the world's poorest people. At the very minimum, the target must aim to eradicate poverty at a \$2.00 a day line, which would reach an extra billion of the world's poorest people. This will be challenging, but is feasible if other proposed targets are met, including those relating to social protection and decent work. Edward and Sumner (2013) estimate that the eradication of poverty at \$2.00 a day could have been achieved by 2010 if the share of global growth since 1990 flowing to the world's \$2.00 per day poor increased from 5% to 12% – a relatively modest redistribution of global wealth.

² Targets relating to *relative* as well as *absolute* national poverty lines are important to ensure the universal relevance of the SDGs, maintain ambition, and to recognize the damaging impacts of both relative and absolute poverty.

Proposed Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

CRITICAL TARGET - 2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round

CRITICAL TARGET - 2.2 by 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, with special attention to stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of *adolescent girls*,³ pregnant and lactating women

CRITICAL TARGET - 2.4 by 2030 implement sustainable and resilient agricultural practices *to produce a diverse and nutritious diet for all*,⁴ including for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and disasters, and progressively enhance soil quality

2.3 by 2030 substantially increase small-scale food producers' productivity and incomes, particularly of women, family farmers and pastoralists through secure access for all to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets

2.5 by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

Proposed Goal 3. Attain healthy lives for all at all ages and universal coverage of good-quality healthcare without financial hardship

CRITICAL TARGET - 3.1 by 2030 *end preventable* reduce the global maternal mortality *with a global* ratio to of less than 70 per 100,000 live births *and no more than 100 in any country, in all social and economic groups*

CRITICAL TARGET - 3.2 by 2030 end preventable newborn, infant⁵ and under-five deaths *with a neonatal rate of 10 per 1000 live births, 7 per 1000 globally, and an under-five rate of 20 per 1000 live births, 15 per 1000 globally*,⁶ in all social and economic groups

CRITICAL TARGET - 3.3 achieve universal health coverage (UHC)⁷ including financial risk protection⁸, access to essential health care services *including universal skilled birth attendance and family planning*, and access to safe, effective and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all *with a focus on reaching the most marginalized first*⁹

3.c increase substantially the recruitment, development and training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in LDCs, *with a minimum of 23 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people*¹⁰

3.b *Establish legislative and policy measures to address social determinants and realize the right to health, including* supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, providing access to affordable essential medicines, and supporting developing countries' use of TRIPS flexibilities

³ Poor nutrition during adolescence increases the risk of the 16 million infants dying each year within the first month of life or having a low birth weight.

⁴ An end to food and nutrition insecurity will only be achieved if food production systems are resilient to climate change and disasters. This language change would better link sustainability and nutrition targets.

⁵ The infant mortality rate (deaths under age one) is generally falling out of use and is being replaced by the newborn death rate (deaths under one month) which provides a better indication of deaths due to childbirth.

⁶ These thresholds from the *Child Survival Call to Action* and *Every Newborn Action Plan* represent international definitions of what constitutes the eradication of 'preventable' deaths, and must be included to maintain high levels of ambition.

⁷ The SDGs should follow the UHC framework developed by WHO and the World Bank with the exception that the target for coverage should aim to be 100% rather than 80%. Some services such as immunisation are already above 80% in many countries, while the *Every Newborn Action Plan* calls for 95% coverage for skilled birth attendance.

⁸ Per WHO, indicators must include zero impoverishment from health expenditures, maximum 15-25% of total health spend out of pocket payments, minimum 5% of GDP public health expenditure and at least 0.1% of GNI as ODA to health.

⁹ Must be reinserted from previous zero draft to ensure equitable approach to achieving universal health coverage.

¹⁰ Threshold should be specified to maintain ambition and defined according to existing WHO recommendations.

Proposed Goal 4. Provide quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all

CRITICAL TARGET - 4.2 by 2030, ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to **and achieve** relevant and effective learning outcomes, **with gaps in completion and learning outcomes between social and economic groups significantly reduced**

CRITICAL TARGET - 4.5 by 2030, eliminate gender disparities and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for people in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities

CRITICAL TARGET - 4.1 by 2030 provide all children access to quality early childhood care and pre-primary education, **with gaps in access between social and economic groups significantly reduced**

4.a by 2030 **ensure all children are taught by** increase by x% the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, **eliminating regional disparities in the number of trained teachers and reducing absentee rates**, and ensure safe, **non-violent**, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, **including in emergencies**¹¹

4.4 by 2030 promote life-long learning, ~~provide employable skills especially to young women and men,~~ and increase by at least x% adult literacy and basic numeracy **and ensure all young women and men are in decent employment, education or training**¹²

Proposed Goal 5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere

CRITICAL TARGET - 5.2 eliminate all forms of violence, **including sexual violence**,¹³ against all women, ~~and girls~~ **and boys**¹⁴ in public and private spaces and end their trafficking and sexual exploitation

CRITICAL TARGET - 5.3 eliminate all harmful practices **against girls and boys including**, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations

CRITICAL TARGET - 5.6 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights **and access to services** in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action

5.5 ensure full and effective participation and leadership of women **and girls** at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors

5.4 **ensure women's equal right to own and control assets and productive resources**, recognize and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through shared responsibility within the family and the provision of appropriate public services [merge 5.a and 5.4]

¹¹ Schools must not only be accessible and serve the needs of all children, but must also be safe and in times of conflict and disaster. The SDGs must therefore incentivize action to ensure educational continuity in times of emergency, and ensure that children and their communities are well informed about what to do during disasters. This target should be accompanied by financing indicators to ensure adequate investment is being made to strengthen education systems. These should include:

(a) a minimum of 20% of donor aid budgets and 6% of GNP allocated to education, with spending targeted towards the most disadvantaged countries and areas; and

(b) that education receives a minimum of 4% of global humanitarian aid in line with need.

¹² The target on youth employment that was included in the original zero draft should be re-inserted.

¹³ Emphasis must be placed on ending sexual violence – one of the most pervasive and damaging forms of violence which occurs in all countries.

¹⁴ Ending violence against boys *must* be included in this target, as boys who experience violence when they are young are more likely to grow up to be perpetrators of violence against women and girls as adults. Gender equality for women and girls will not be achieved unless ending violence against boys is also prioritized in the SDGs.

Proposed Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all

CRITICAL TARGET - 6.1 by 2030, achieve universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

CRITICAL TARGET - 6.2 *by 2025 eradicate open defecation and*¹⁵ by 2030, achieve adequate sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls

CRITICAL TARGET - 6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping of chemicals and hazardous materials, doubling wastewater treatment and increasing recycling and reuse by x% globally

6.4 by 2030, improve water-use efficiency by x% across all sectors and bring freshwater withdrawals in line with sustainable supply

6.5 by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, and through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Proposed Goal 7. Ensure sustainable energy for all

CRITICAL TARGET - 7.1 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services

CRITICAL TARGET - 7.2 double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

CRITICAL TARGET - 7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030

7.4 by 20~~2030~~¹⁶ phase out fossil fuel production and consumption subsidies that encourage wasteful use, while ensuring secure affordable energy for the poor

Proposed Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

CRITICAL TARGET - 8.5 take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and by 20~~30~~¹⁷ end child labour in all its forms

CRITICAL TARGET - 8.4 by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

CRITICAL TARGET - 8.6 protect the rights and ensure safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment in accordance with ILO norms and standards

8.1 achieve transformation of economies towards higher levels of productivity through diversification with a focus on high value added sectors

8.3 achieve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency, and ~~endeavour to~~ decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use

¹⁵ This target must be a priority, but should be amended to support the UN target to eradicate open defecation by 2025. One billion people across the world practice open defecation, with numbers rising in sub-Saharan Africa between 1990 and 2011. Lack of progress will have knock-on impacts for the achievement of other goals, particularly for health, as poor access to basic sanitation is a major cause of diarrhea, the second leading killer of children worldwide.

¹⁶ This is the timeframe considered by the International Energy Association to be consistent with the G20 and APEC 2009 commitment to phase out use in the medium-term.

¹⁷ In 2012, one in every 10 children was working – a total of 168 million children. Sufficient time needs to be allowed for the elimination of all forms of child labour in ways that do not increase children's vulnerability and cause more harm. Without such steps, the elimination of child labour could simply result in more children on the streets and/or more children in more hidden, illegal and dangerous parts of the labour market.

Proposed Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and between countries

CRITICAL TARGET - 10.1 through 2030 sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average *and reduce income inequality by x%*¹⁸

CRITICAL TARGET - 10.3 reduce inequalities of opportunity and outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard, *and through setting national interim stepping stone equity targets in each goal area*¹⁹

CRITICAL TARGET - 10.4 progressively adopt policies especially fiscal policies to promote greater equality

10.2 by 2030 take actions to empower and promote the social and economic inclusion *and civic engagement* of all irrespective of *age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability* or economic status, *with a focus on the poorest and most marginalized adults and children*

10.c by 2030, reduce to less than 5x%²⁰ the transaction costs of migrant remittances

Proposed Goal 12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns

CRITICAL TARGET - 12.5 increase the share of private sector actors incorporating sustainable development principles in their business practices, and *establish legislation that requires all large companies report on social, human rights and environmental impact, including children's rights impact*²¹ by 2030 increase substantially the number of companies, especially large companies, that report on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including through integrated reporting

CRITICAL TARGET - 12.1 by 2030, all countries have integrated policies and measures to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns into national strategies and plans, as envisioned in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP)

CRITICAL TARGET - 12.2 by 2030 reduce by half *to zero*²² global food waste and production and post-harvest food losses and those along food supply chains

12.3 promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in accordance with agreed international frameworks and by 2030 *reduce the human health burden arising from hazardous pollutants by 50% (mortality and DALY rates)* significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil

¹⁸ A specific target to reduce income inequality must be included in the final OWG proposal. Ensuring that the income growth of the bottom 40% is higher than the national average is important, as specified for Target 10.2, but emphasis must also be placed on reducing overall levels of inequality. Evidence shows that extreme economic inequality reduces the robustness and sustainability of economic growth, and also reduces the impact that growth has on income poverty reduction and human development. Reducing income inequality will therefore be critical for achieving income poverty eradication and sustainable growth targets. For further discussion see: Save the Children (2013) [Getting to Zero](#).

¹⁹ To reduce inequality of opportunity and outcome, each SDG should include 'stepping stone' interim equity targets to ensure that disadvantaged groups are making sufficient progress to reach universal goals by 2030, and converging with the most advantaged groups. See: Save the Children (2014) [Framework for the Future](#).

²⁰ The G20 has already committed to reducing the transaction costs of remittances to 5% by 2014. The SDG target must build on this commitment and raise the level of ambition.

²¹ Reporting by the private sector on environmental, social and governance impacts is important for ensuring that business activities do not undermine, and where possible, actively contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals. It is only when companies understand these impacts themselves that they can orient their business models towards creating shared value. Further, it is only when they publish their data that investors can make informed decisions about aligning their investment with sustainable development objectives, and civil society and governments can hold companies to account. This target should therefore be amended to establish mandatory corporate reporting with clear guidelines on what needs to be reported.

²² This is in line with the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge.

Proposed Goal 13. Tackle climate change and its impacts

CRITICAL TARGET - *Ensure that greenhouse gas emissions have peaked globally and are declining at a rate consistent with UNFCCC goals.*²³ [re-inserted and adapted from previous zero draft]

CRITICAL TARGET - 13.1 strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards and natural disasters in all countries *and households*

CRITICAL TARGET - 13.a ensure the fulfilment of the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation

13.2 integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into national strategies and plans

Proposed Goal 16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and open, inclusive and accountable governance with²⁴ effective and capable institutions

CRITICAL TARGET - 16.a *Ensure rule of law and* develop effective, accountable and transparent public institutions at all levels including security and police forces, *and strengthen child protection systems*

CRITICAL TARGET - 16.2 end abuse, *neglect*, exploitation, and violence against children everywhere *in all settings*²⁵

CRITICAL TARGET - 16.3 by 2030 ~~reduce~~ *halt* illicit financial flows ~~by x% globally~~ *through automatic exchange of tax information, mandatory country-by-country reporting for multinationals and public registries of tax information*²⁶, increase stolen asset recovery and return by y% globally, fight all forms of organized crime, and reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms and at all levels and ensure accountability and transparency *in governance at all levels*

16.7 *Protect in law and practice* promote free and easy access to information²⁷ *and* freedom of *media*, expression, association and peaceful assembly, *including the removal of restrictions on civil society*²⁸

16.4 By 2030 ~~increase~~ *ensure* inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, *including for children*, and ensure prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision-making and natural resource management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture

²³ A target to reduce global emissions will be essential for ensuring that the other objectives of the SDGs are not compromised as a result of climate change. As framed here, this target supports the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

²⁴ The success of the SDGs will depend on the inclusion of a goal to support open, inclusive and accountable governance, and emphasis must be given to these critical dimensions of governance through including this specific language at a goal level. As reaffirmed in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, democracy, good governance and the rule of law are essential for sustainable and equitable development. These public goods will not be achieved without effective, transparent, accountable and democratic institutions at all levels, within an environment in which people can influence their lives and participate in decision-making. See: *The Future We Want*, A/RES/66/288, paragraphs 10 and 13.

²⁵ This target will be critical to achieve targets in health, education and other goal areas. Violence affects children's health, self-esteem and well-being, with knock-on impacts on the contribution they are able to make to the economy and society. Children who experience violence are more likely to be aggressive or violent as adults. See: West and Delap (2012) *Protect my Future: the links between child protection and equity*.

²⁶ A target to halt illicit financial flows is essential for reducing global inequality and harnessing critical resources. There is currently no agreement on how to quantify or compare different illicit flows, so this target should focus on policy commitments that will be necessary for achieving significant reductions. These could also be quantified as output targets (e.g. ensure that the beneficial ownership of all companies is known). For further discussion see: <http://www.developmentprogress.org/blog/2013/11/20/financing-progress-independently-taxation-and-illicit-flows>

²⁷ Information should include public budgeting and policy making.

²⁸ Civil society is an important component of a healthy society, essential for advancing accountability and giving poor and marginalized people a means to organize and express themselves. This target must therefore include a commitment to reverse the worrying restrictions that are being placed on civil society registration, fundraising and other activities in countries across the world.

Proposed Goals 9, 11, 14 and 15

CRITICAL TARGET - 14.2 by 2020, sustainably manage, restore and protect marine ecosystems from destruction, including by strengthening their resilience, and address ocean acidification and its impacts

CRITICAL TARGET - 15.3 by 2030, achieve a land degradation neutral world, and restore degraded land including land affected by desertification and drought

CRITICAL TARGET - 15.4 by 2020 take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species

9.a facilitate sustainable infrastructure development, with emphasis on enhanced financial and technical support to LDCs

11.4 by 2030 halve the number of deaths and decrease by 50% economic losses relative to GDP caused by natural disasters

11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resilience, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters

Proposed Goal 17. ~~Strengthen the~~ **Ensure adequate**²⁹ means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development

CRITICAL TARGET - 17.3 realize timely implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries consistent with WTO decisions and the Istanbul Programme of Action

CRITICAL TARGET - 17.4 developed countries implement fully ODA commitments to provide 0.7% of GNI in ODA to developing countries of which 0.15-0.20% to least-developed countries on **a binding** agreed timeline.

CRITICAL TARGET - 17.5 strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to improve domestic capacity for tax collection, and mobilize additional international financial resources from multiple sources

17.6 assist developing countries in attaining long term debt sustainability, **with all countries and multilateral institutions endorsing guidelines to ensure that lending and borrowing is transparent, and loan terms and conditions are available for advance public scrutiny**

17.11 enhance global macroeconomic policy coordination and policy coherence in support of sustainable development, **and increase the percentage of IMF shares allocated to developing countries**

Data, monitoring and accountability³⁰

17.15 by 2020, increase significantly the availability of high-quality and timely data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, with capacity building support to developing countries, especially LDCs. **No target will be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.**

17.16 undertake regular ~~voluntary~~ **mandatory, participatory and transparent** monitoring and reporting of progress on SDGs, led by governments, within a shared accountability framework, including means of implementation, the global partnership among Member States and multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships

²⁹ The language for this goal must be as strong as for other goals in the framework, particularly as the success of all goals will hinge on a robust global partnership.

³⁰ Targets 17.15 and 17.16 are critical accountability and implementation mechanisms for delivering the SDGs. These should not be framed as targets, but rather as part of an accompanying commitment to implementing the framework.