

U.S. Statement, Goals and Targets and Political Declaration
Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiation Process
Delivered by Tony Pipa, U.S. Lead Negotiator
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Thank you, Mr. Co-Facilitator. We are glad to have the opportunity to address both goals and targets and our political declaration. As promised in our earlier statement, we will use this time to offer particular ideas for how to approach these segments of an eventual outcome document as well as our February and March sessions.

Goals and Targets

On goals and targets, we want to **join in the room’s appreciation for the two years of collective effort in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**. That experience built a strong foundation of shared vocabulary, understanding of mutual interests and concerns, and of course a report that serves as an important departure point today for our discussions about goals and targets. We did not reach consensus on every issue, but we did establish substantial common ground that gives us a strong basis from which to begin this next phase – going forward, not going back.

It also gave us a formidable evidence base from which to draw – on every issue.

As we look ahead, our guiding principle for our goals and targets is as it has been – a set of **clear, ambitious, and measurable strategic priorities** that are based on **evidence and implementability, namely a convincing rationale for how they will drive action and achieve results**. We see clear room for improvement regarding implementability – for example, despite widespread support for a target on job creation and a strong investment climate, our final target defines no clear measure or action and instead is just a call for “development-oriented policies.”

Our view now is a pragmatic one. **We want to raise our existing targets to a common technical standard and to a common degree of achievability**. We do not want to wade into political debates that we have already had, and we don’t think that we need to. We believe we can use our allotted five days to have a focused and comprehensive conversation about the achievability and technical rigor of where the OWG landed. We have had extensive consultations in our original formulation of goals and targets, but we have not analyzed the end result. The time is ripe for that analysis.

And we believe the answers exist. Leading thinkers and practitioners have already started asking these questions, and we could commission them to do more. If we draw on the expertise and advice, and have member states dialogue transparently in this forum with these experts - from academia, the scientific community, our own governments and national statisticians, civil society, the private sector, and the UN Statistical Commission - we think we can chart a path forward that is strategic and not politically charged. As in our MOI sessions, we would recommend also hearing from implementers – from regionally-diverse mayors, ministers, small business owners, and others.

And throughout, we must keep an eye on the overall framework – to ensure that the end result is integrated and comprehensive, not a siloed set of goals, but a deeply interconnected and synergistic one.

Political Declaration

Regarding the Political Declaration, we will focus our comments on practical recommendations for the text and for our February and March sessions.

First, we would firmly root our political declaration in the rich tradition on which this agenda is built – the Millennium Declaration, the MDGs, and Rio+20. We should articulate those lessons explicitly, while resisting the temptation to simply restate previous texts.

In practical terms, we thus recommend speakers in our February session who could address the lessons of the MDGs and the Millennium Declaration, as well as Rio+20, as Mr. Bhattacharya helpfully began to do this morning.

Second, this text will serve as the introduction of the post-2015 development agenda to the world. It should capture the nature of this historic achievement and opportunity. It should **tell a story** about how together we can mobilize action for transformative change at all levels. It should be inspirational and well-written. And it should speak in plain terms to citizens, development practitioners, and leaders at all levels across the world. **In so doing, it should be a vehicle by which to mobilize implementation.**

In practical terms, we thus recommend hearing from communication experts in February, and more specifically experts in communicating development.

Third, we could see great value in using this declaration to organize the mind, to provide a conceptual frame to explain and focus our agenda in clear terms. In this spirit, we support the idea of a small set of organizing elements, similar to the **six organizing elements** as proposed in the Secretary-General's report, and in the Common Africa Position before it. We are flexible as to what those are or how we organize them, but we like this idea as a starting point.

In practical terms, we would recommend hearing in February from those who have expertise in combining and streamlining a vast array range of ideas into a succinct framework – consultants, behavioral scientists, and the like. There is a science to this, and we believe we can infuse it into our sessions.

Finally, we emphasize again the importance of flexibility, and of regular revisiting of the political declaration. The political declaration most of all needs to build on what we agree in the remainder of the agenda as our proceedings unfold.

Thank you.