Priorities of LDCs in the context of the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

UN-OHRLLS

Executive Summary

This document sets out a comprehensive set of recommendations that have been, or could be, made by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group to the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDGs), as well as a detailed justification for recommendations of greatest relevance and importance to LDCs. The paper draws on the statements that have been made to Open Working Group Sessions 1 through 11 by the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the LDCs; on meetings and interviews with representatives of the LDC Group and experts on various aspects of sustainable development; and on relevant literature.

Following the Introduction in Section 1, the paper is organized as follows:

Section 2 offers a set of key messages that summarize the LDC Group's understanding of sustainable development and the purpose of the SDGs, and that should be included in the eventual Chapeau of the SDGs.

Section 3 proposes four guiding principles that must underpin the SDGs if they are to effectively contribute to sustainable development in LDCs. These principles are:

- Respect previous international commitments on development;
- Leave no one behind;
- Support productive capacity-building and structural transformation of LDCs;
- Create a coherent framework for LDCs to pursue sustainable development.

Section 4 offers recommendations, from an LDC perspective, on the SDG framework, goals and targets. These include general recommendations on key characteristics of the framework and on designing global goals and targets, as well as specific recommendations on potential targets and Means of Implementation (MoI). It also discussed why those targets and MoI should be included in the SDGs. A table in this section covers all the targets included in the "zero draft" of the SDGs, which was released by the Co-Chairs of the OWG on 2 June 2014. The table also includes other targets or wording changes recommended by the LDC Group during the meetings of the OWG. The priority issues that LDCs must continue to emphasize going forward are dealt with in more detail in the main body of Section 4. These issues include LDC graduation, multidimensional poverty, energy, structural transformation and productive capacity-building, equity among and between nations, climate and disaster resilience, natural resources and ecosystem services, finance for development, and trade.

Section 5 provides suggestions regarding the MoI and governance framework for the SDGs, with reference to international cooperation, monitoring and data management, national implementation frameworks and mutual accountability framework.

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1. Introduction

Forty-eight United Nations Member States, more than one quarter of the world's countries, fall into the UN category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These poorest and most vulnerable countries have made the least progress of all developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The LDCs are actively engaged in the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDG), working together as a Group to put forward common positions. In the OWG and other forums, the LDCs have made a strong case that their needs should be given priority attention in the SDGs. LDCs perhaps have the most to gain or lose from the outcomes of these negotiations, and therefore have a special stake in them. In addition, the success of the SDGs will depend largely on the degree to which the framework succeeds in addressing the needs of the LDCs.

This comprehensive paper identifies specific challenges and priorities of LDCs in the context of the proposals that are before the OWG as it enters the final stages of its work. The paper pulls together and provides additional justification for the recommendations that the LDCs have made to the OWG during its initial eleven sessions, as well as offering additional recommendations the LDC Group could consider. It aims to influence the final decisions and products of the OWG by building support for these recommendations.

The material in this paper was developed from:

- the statements made by the Ambassador Permanent Representative of Benin on behalf of the LDC Group to OWG Sessions 1-11;
- meetings with LDC Group members convened by the LDC Group chair during the week preceding OWG Session 10;
- interviews with OWG members from LDCs and other key informants;
- documents and databases noted in the footnotes and References section.

The paper responds directly to the "zero draft" of proposed goals and targets that was released by the OWG Co-Chairs on 2 June 2014.

2. Key messages in justifying the SDGs

The way in which the Sustainable Development Goals are described and justified in their opening statement, or "chapeau", will have important implications for how they are understood and implemented by governments and the international community. From the perspective of LDCs, it is essential that the key message include the following:

Sustainable development depends on mutually reinforcing actions across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development.

As the LDC experience with the MDGs demonstrated, efforts to reduce poverty and improve social conditions cannot be sustained over the long term without rapid and inclusive economic progress. Building productive capacity is therefore essential to achieving lasting social progress. Education, women's empowerment, quality health care and other forms of social progress contribute to economic growth. History has also shown that growth can only be sustained through effective stewardship of the natural resources and environmental services that fuel the economy.

Creating a world free of poverty and hunger is the SDGs' overarching goal

Despite the huge progress made by many countries over the last 15 years, poverty remains the greatest development challenge in the world today. It represents a moral failure of the international community, exerts a drag on economic development and is socially destabilizing. It is also increasingly concentrated in LDCs, where according to the World Bank more than 450 million people, over half the total population of these countries, continue to live in absolute poverty[1]. Hundreds of millions more experience the severe deprivations of multidimensional poverty. Even where poverty rates have fallen, population growth has kept absolute numbers high. With this enormously heavy burden of poverty, it is little wonder that LDCs have failed to make substantial development progress. A lesson from the MDGs is that poverty only falls substantially and sustainably when other indicators of development, such as job creation, economic growth, education and sustainable management of natural resources, improve. All the SDGs therefore must be designed and implemented so as to contribute to this central and overarching goal.

Equity is an essential ingredient for sustainable development to flourish

There is growing evidence of the strong negative effect of income inequality on growth, both within and between countries[2]. To assure growing and lasting prosperity for everyone, the SDGs must contribute to closing the gap between LDCs and other countries. This means that their progress must be more rapid than that of other countries. International resources proportionate to this challenge must be directed to LDCs. Changes will also be required in international systems and institutions, which now perpetuate global inequity through governance regimes that limit or exclude the participation of LDCs and other poor countries.

Sustainable development for the 21st century must be defined by its resilience

The world has experienced many crises and shocks over the past 15 years as a result of weaknesses in the global financial system, commodity shortages, climate change, and other factors. There is considerable evidence that in the coming decades such events will be more frequent and disruptive. These crises hit LDCs and other vulnerable countries the worst, even though they are generally the least to blame for them, and have contributed to LDCs' limited progress on the MDGs. High external debt, low reserves and weak institutions mean that LDCs have very limited resources to help them bounce back from crises. To help all countries weather the crises and shocks we can expect in coming years, the SDGs must help countries build resilience to sustain gains and reduce vulnerabilities.

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[1] This figure based on the international definition of absolute poverty as earning less than US$1.25 per day.

[2] See for example, Ostry, J.D., A. Berg and C.D. Tsangarades. 2014. Redistribution, inequality and growth. IMF Staff Discussion Note SDN/14/02. April 2014. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund. http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2014/sdn1402.pdf and Piketty, T. 2014. *Capital in the 21st Century*. Belkamp Press/Harvard University Press.

Structural transformation is the key to achieving poverty eradication, equity and resilience in Least Developed Countries

The failure of LDCs to make development progress is primarily attributable to economic stagnation due to limited productive capacity. LDCs fell behind on achieving the MDGs because their economies were not able to invest in poverty reduction and other development priorities or to sustain gains made with international assistance. The economies of many LDCs are largely based on the sale of raw commodities, bringing jobless growth that depletes natural capital without replacing it with other forms of capital. Sustainable development in LDCs will require a transformation in the structure of their economies. The SDGs must include economic targets and measures aimed at diversification, value addition, productive capacity development and growing the private sector, including the micro and small enterprises that comprise most of the economic activity and provide most of the jobs in LDCs.

Global partnerships for development must benefit all countries equitably

While the last fifteen years have brought remarkable development progress globally, that progress has been uneven within and across countries. LDCs are lagging behind other groups of countries in all aspects of the MDGs. The renewed global partnership reflected in the SDGs will only succeed if it focuses attention and resources, not only on the poorest and most vulnerable people, but also on those countries, particularly the LDCs, whose progress has been slowest and most fragile.

All countries can contribute to the global goal of sustainable development

LDCs have as much to offer a new international framework for development as to gain from it. For example, the ten-year Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (IPoA) provides a well-evidenced, comprehensive and integrated roadmap for development in countries with low levels of industrialization. The IPoA is informed by past LDC development successes and failures, including the MDGs. Because the LDCs are already three years into the IPoA, the SDGs can draw and build upon national IPoA implementation frameworks and actions already in place. This can help them get a jump start on the SDGs. LDCs also have considerable learning to offer from development cooperation experience, climate adaptation and disaster response, models of transformative economic strategies that "leapfrog" carbon-emitting technologies[3] and alternative approaches to measuring development progress, such as Bhutan's Gross National Happiness indicators.

3. Guiding principles

In developing its recommendations, the LDC Group has been guided by four principles, which it feels should be embodied in the formulation of the SDGs. These are:

3.1 Respect previous international commitments on development

The SDGs should not lower the level of ambition set by previous international commitments. Where similar issues are addressed, SDG goals and targets should be in line with or more ambitious than, those in these earlier agreements including:

- ***the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)***: The SDGs must complete the unfinished business and carry forward the vision and ambitions of the MDGs;
- ***the Rio Principles and Rio+20 commitments:*** The SDGs should reflect the Rio Principles, with particular reference to Principle 6 ("The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority."). This Principle is strongly

[3] Fisher, S. 2013. Low carbon resilient development in the Least Developed Countries. IIED Briefing, November 2013. http://pubs.iied.org/17177IIED.html?k=fisher&r=p.

reasserted in *The Future We Want*, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference.

- ***the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries:*** The IPoA, whose overarching goal is "to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category" through "sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth", has proven to be a robust roadmap for development that has been strongly embraced by LDC governments. As called for in paragraph 34 of the Rio+20 outcome document[4] and the 2013 report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the IPoA[5], the SDGs should explicitly acknowledge the IPoA as the agreed framework for action in LDCs and align with its objectives and targets.

3.2 Leave no one behind

The SDGs should ensure that no country and no people are left behind. Equity is fundamental to sustainable development. Achieving equity will require special attention to those that have been left behind in past development efforts. For LDCs, that special attention should take the form of ***differential and preferential treatment for LDCs (DPTL)***: -- differential in respect of obligations and preferential in respect of international support. As the MDGs experience has demonstrated, the LDCs will not benefit equally from the SDGs, let alone catch up to other developing countries, without DPTL. Within a framework of universal goals the SDGs must therefore include some ***targets specific to LDCs*** in order to direct resources towards LDCs, level the playing field and make rapid progress possible.

3.3 Support productive capacity-building and structural transformation of LDCs

In line with the goals and objectives of the IPoA, the focus of development efforts in LDCs over the period of the SDGs should be on building productive capacity to create decent poverty-eradicating employment, fund social services and provide a sustainable engine of growth. The SDGs can do much to improve the enabling environment for structural transformation through well-directed actions in areas including trade, capacity building, skills development, technology transfer, sustainable energy and new and additional financing aimed at building productive capacity.

3.4 Create a coherent framework for LDCs to pursue sustainable development

The SDGs need to avoid the temptation to replicate the compartmentalized approach of the MDGs; achieving sustainable development requires integrating all the dimensions of development. The SDGs framework does not need to reproduce what already exists nationally but should help countries identify and fill critical policy gaps. The SDGs need to be forward looking, supporting countries to grasp the opportunities (e.g. growing population of young people) and prepare for the challenges (e.g., climate change) of the future. The framework must include provision for countries to define their own targets and indicators guided by and employing the structure provided by the SDGs. Finally the SDGs must clearly spell out *how* the SDGs will be implemented through strong attention to the Means of Implementation for each goal and for the overall set of goals.

[4] "We reaffirm that the Istanbul Programme of Action outlines the priorities of least developed countries for sustainable development and defines a framework for renewed and strengthened global partnership to implement them. We commit to assist the least developed countries with the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as in their efforts to achieve sustainable development."

[5] UN Secretary-General 2013. p. 127, paragraph 142. See References section for full citation.

4. Recommendations on the SDGs framework, goals and targets

4.1. Key characteristics

Based on the broad guidance provided by the Rio+20 Declaration, consensus has evolved in the Open Working Group that the SDGs must embody three key characteristics:

- ***Integrated***: The framework must reflect the inter-related nature of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development;
- ***Universal:*** The SDGs must be relevant to all countries and people '*while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities*'[6]. Universality is an important principle but should not come at the cost of LDCs not being able to meet agreed goals and targets. The principle of differential responsibilities and preferential treatment for LDCs (DPTL), which derives from the internationally accepted principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, is fully compatible with an SDGs principle of universality that takes account of different national contexts.
- ***Transformational***: The SDGs must encourage and support the fundamental changes required to achieve lasting and equitable prosperity for all. In the case of LDCs, perhaps the most critical of these fundamental challenges is economic structural transformation.

It is essential that the OWG not lose sight of these ambitions as it moves into the final stages of its deliberations.

4.2 Designing targets

The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has produced detailed guidance on designing targets and indicators for the SDGs[7]. A few of the issues addressed in that report that are most relevant to LDCs are discussed further here.

To be useful in directing action and assessing progress, targets must be "SMART": ***Specific*** in terms of what needs to be done and who must do it, ***Measurable***, ***Ambitious but attainable***, ***Relevant*** and ***Time-bound***. While the OWG "zero draft" of June 2 is an improvement over previous drafts, further work, drawing on expertise in monitoring and evaluation in the relevant fields, will be needed to shape the final versions of targets and their indicators.

In order to be transformative, targets must aim for significant change. Some countries, and particularly LDCs, are starting from very low baselines in many target areas while also experiencing rapid demographic change. Targets that aim for a percentage increase from the baseline may not be ambitious enough in such cases, even when the specified percentages are high. For example, the proposed target to "halve the number of youth not in employment, education or training by 2020" may be insufficient for LDCs where the number of youth is expected to greatly exceed the 2015 baseline by 2020, thus resulting in little change in sheer number of youth even if the target is achieved. Rephrasing the target to read: "At least xx% of youth are in employment, education or training by 2020" would resolve the unequal baseline problem and guide LDCs towards parity with other countries.

For many of the areas covered by the SDGs, the stakes are especially high for LDCs. Benchmark targets are needed to assure that progress is on track and that interventions are having the desired impacts. To achieve this, the framework should include 5-year

[6] United Nations 2012. The Future We Want, paragraph 247. See references for full citation

[7] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators. 2013. "Numerical aspects of target-setting, development of statistical capacities and the selection of robust monitoring indicators". Unpublished report dated 1 June 2013.

benchmark targets for many goals. The targets and benchmarks could vary for different countries or country groupings depending on their specific situations.

Given their extremely limited monitoring and statistical management capacity, as well as lack of baseline data, LDCs have great difficulty effectively implementing target and indicator-based global frameworks. When such targets and indicators align closely to priorities in national development plans and budgets, they can reinforce incentives to establish effective systems of monitoring and data collection. On the other hand, too many targets and indicators, or ones not central to a country's major development priorities, can quickly overwhelm capacity and so undermine the main purpose of target-based frameworks. Concerns are already being raised by developing countries in the OWG that the number of targets in the SDGs could be more than many countries can effectively manage. The challenge going forward will be to balance the need to comprehensively assess progress across a wide agenda and the capacity and interest of countries to generate the data to do so.

One important benefit that LDCs can expect from the new global framework is financial and technical support to statistical capacity-building. However, the evolution of that capacity will necessarily take time. A data revolution that puts data collection responsibilities and resources in the hands of relevant stakeholders is an obvious and cost-effective complement to international monitoring frameworks and data systems. In the case of the LDCs, investment in local data management capacity may be the only realistic and effective option ftracking progress on many SDG targets[8]. Suggestions on the main elements of a bottom-up monitoring and data management system are included in Section 5.4 below.

4.3 Specific recommendations on goals, targets and MoI

Many priority issues for LDCs, for example gender, education, health, and water and sanitation, have been generally addressed in the OWG zero draft. The matrix in Table 1 offers recommendations on specific targets that LDCs would wish to support in these and other focus areas. Other priority issues that are likely to require ongoing attention from LDCs are discussed in detail below.

Issue	**LDC graduation**
Targets in OWG zero draft (2 June)	Not addressed
Targets proposed by LDC Group	Half of all LDCs meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. In addition, all LDCs meet the criteria for graduation by 2030, resulting in the subsequent elimination of the LDC category[9].
Discussion	The 2020 target is enshrined in the IPoA. The fact that one quarter of UN Member States fall into this group, and that only four have graduated out of it over the past 40 years, while many more have joined, is a major international development failure. ***Virtually no target could better demonstrate the ambition and eventual success of the SDGs than one to have all LDCs meet the criteria for graduation by 2030.*** Given the multi-dimensional criteria[10] used to assess LDC

[8] See for example, Satterthwaite, D. 2014. Wanted: urban data revolution for post-2015 development goals. http://www.iied.org/wanted-urban-data-revolution-for-post-2015-sustainable-development-goals-0/

[9] The recommended 2030 target for all LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation was proposed by the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of LDCs and the Permanent Representative of Nepal during an interview for the preparation of this paper.

[10] Per capita GNI, human assets index, and economic vulnerability index (which includes environmental vulnerabilities)

	status and applications for graduation, the rate of graduation provides a useful indicator of SDG progress across a range of goal areas, with particular emphasis on progress by the poorest and most marginalized countries. Because it straddles all the goal areas, this should be an overarching target of the SDGs.

Issue	**Multidimensional poverty**
Targets in OWG zero draft (2 June)	Not addressed in an integrated way
Targets proposed by LDC Group	a. End multidimensional poverty by 2030 b. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors, covering households with incomes too low to meet basic needs and to increase the resilience of all households to crises and shocks. c. Reduce by x% health burdens and deaths from preventable and treatable diseases disproportionately affecting the poor, including tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS … d. Increase investment in disaster risk reduction to build resilience of the poor and reduce by x% deaths and economic losses related to disasters
Discussion	Health, water and sanitation, energy, work opportunities, climate and disaster vulnerability and natural resource productivity all have strong implications for poverty reduction and must be dealt with in a comprehensive way. Attention to the different dimensions of poverty facilitates approaches that support increasing resilience of households living below, or vulnerable to falling below, the poverty line. Methods and data systems for measuring multidimensional poverty already exist and are improving through work by the UN, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and others. ***A dedicated target on multi-dimensional poverty is therefore feasible and would offer a far more comprehensive picture of national poverty than measurements based purely on income*** -- although these also have their uses, especially when based on national poverty lines rather than global figures such as $1.25 per day. Targets b-d above, which are included in the latest working draft of the OWG, can also help direct a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction. For example, social protection measures are a critical tool for eradicating multidimensional poverty. In LDCs, large portions of the population are regularly or intermittently unable to meet their basic needs without assistance, especially during economic or political crises or following crop failures or other disasters. ***Targets that aim to increase the employment opportunities and overall productivity of the poor should also be included as part of a multidimensional poverty reduction "package" embedded within the SDGs.*** Some such targets already exist, for

	example, those dealing with small agricultural and fisheries production and small and micro enterprises. The package of targets aimed at increasing productive employment of the poor could be strengthened by greater attention to the spaces in the economy most accessible the poor, including the informal economy and micro-finance for individual enterprise.

Issue	**Energy**
Targets in OWG zero draft (2 June)	Multiple targets under Goal 7, but none adequately address LDCs' need for energy expansion for productive capacity-building at all levels, starting from households.
Targets proposed by LDC Group	a. Increase total primary energy supply per capita for LDCs to the same level as other developing countries (carried over from IPoA) b. At least double the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020, and double again by 2030
Discussion	LDCs lag far behind other countries in virtually all aspects of energy access and production. A 2009 UNDP/WHO study estimates that 824 million people in LDCs (79% of the population) lack access to electricity and 91% lack access to modern cooking fuels. This is compared to 28% and 60% respectively for developing countries as a whole. The situation in rural areas is particularly bad, where 87% of households lack electricity[11]. Most efforts to expand access to poor communities focus on meeting basic needs, but for energy to have a transformative effect it must also be affordable and accessible to all including the poorest; reliable; and delivered in appropriate forms and in adequate amounts for smallholder agriculture, and other productive and income-generating activities uses and for running essential community services. A target is needed to capture these critical poverty-reducing and developmental dimensions of poverty. A possible wording would be: ***"By 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable, reliable modern energy services in adequate amounts for basic needs, productive uses and community services"*** Increasing both energy supply and access to energy are essential to LDCs, and must be dealt with in tandem. Increasing supply will not automatically expand access. However, increasing energy generation capacity is needed for structural transformation. LDCs generate an average of only around 174 KwH per capita, approximately 2% of the figure for OECD countries, and only 7% that of other developing countries (World Bank Indicators, 2011 figures). Closing this huge energy gap would create essential conditions for achieving virtually all aspects of development as well as rapid and sustained economic growth. The SDGs should reinforce the IPoA target to increase total

[11] Legros, G. et al. 2009. The energy access situation in developing countries: A review focusing on the Least Developed Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa. UNDP and WHO. http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=2205620.

	primary energy supply per capita for LDCs to the same level as other developing countries by 2020. This target can be incorporated in an SDGs target to achieve at least x level of total primary energy supply per capita for all countries by 2030, with "x" representing the level required for countries to make rapid economic progress, based on data from emerging economies. Investing in renewable energy offers LDCs the opportunity to leapfrog 20th century technologies and move directly into low carbon production systems. Many LDCs are already moving in this direction[12]. The LDCs have committed in the IPoA to doubling their share of renewable energy by 2020; the SDGs should reinforce that target and raise the level of ambition by 2030. Most LDCs do not have an adequate policy, regulatory and institutional framework for the energy sector to develop effectively. MoI must include support to institutional capacity building to support countries to develop, finance and implement such frameworks. The proposed global energy tracking framework being developed in association with SE4ALL offers the potential for collecting data on this goal area, but LDCs would require capacity-building support to implement it at national level, which must also be part of the MoI of this goal area. Finally, MoI for this target must support LDCs in mobilizing the vast financial resources that will be needed to develop sustainable energy infrastructure.

Issue	**Structural transformation and productive capacity-building**
Targets in OWG zero draft (2 June)	Goals 8 and 9 include various targets relevant to these issues
Targets proposed by LDC Group	The LDC Group has proposed a package of targets, largely derived from the IPoA, under Goals 8 and 9, including: • Achieve at least 7% economic growth per annum in LDCs • Enhance the mobilization of domestic resources and foreign investment to achieve at least 40% investment to GDP ratios in LDCs against the current rate of 22% • Achieve structural transformation of the economy towards higher productivity sectors and activities • Achieve sustained industrial development in LDCs by at least doubling the share of manufacturing in the economy • Diversify local productive and export capability with a focus on promotion of value chains in agriculture, manufacturing and services • Increase significantly support to LDCs, with a view to reaching the status of high-income developing countries, through value addition in natural resource-based industries through domestic processing of raw materials and their integration in regional and global value chains • Enhance export diversification with a view to helping LDCs

[12] At least 9 LDCs have embarked on low carbon development strategies; they include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique, Nepal and Rwanda (Fisher 2013 op. cit.).

	reach the level of merchandise exports index of other developing countries
Discussion	Structural transformation and productive capacity-building are at the core of LDC aspirations for a new post-2015 agenda. They are also the issues that the LDC Group will need to insist the strongest on inclusion. The LDC Group has argued repeatedly that these issues are central to sustainable development of LDCs and must be comprehensively addressed by the SDGs. Through the IPoA the LDCs have laid out a clear and well-evidenced strategy based on building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services through diversification, infrastructure development, enhanced investment, and structural transformation. Some LDCs and other developing countries have already made impressive development gains based on such strategies. If the SDGs are to achieve their aims, they must provide the conditions for LDCs to pursue those pathways in a sustainable manner. If structural transformation and productive capacity-building are achieved, skilled jobs will be created. Targets on job creation (8.3, 8.4, 9.3 and 9.7) may therefore be more useful at the indicator level, to track progress towards increased productive capacity and structural transformation. This cluster of targets should also address agriculture and be linked to proposed Goal 2. Agriculture is the mainstay of LDC economies and the most important economic activity of the poor, and is likely to remain so for at least another decade. Structural transformation also implies a shift to forms of production that do not damage the environment but do optimize the use of natural resources and ecosystem services that are often abundant and underutilized in LDCs. LDCs will need access to technologies and capacities to help them make that shift, which can yield major returns over the long term. While structural transformation and productive capacity-building are central development priorities for a number of developing countries in addition to LDCs, the LDC Group has led the call for the inclusion of these priorities in the SDGs. As negotiations move forward, with possibly growing pressure to reduce the number of goals and targets, the LDC Group will need to make an continuously compelling case for inclusion of this package of targets. Other countries may be concerned about embedding in the SDGs targets that could lead to unsustainable growth and exploitation of the natural environment. The LDC Group may therefore wish to consider adding a strong sustainability dimension to all the targets it promotes, for example: • ***Achieve at least 7% growth in LDCs while maintaining or enhancing net (produced, natural and intangible) capital wealth[13]***

[13] See World Bank work on wealth accounting, including World Bank. 2011. *The Changing Wealth of Nations: Measuring Sustainable Development in the New Millennium*. Washington, D.C.: IBRD/The World Bank.

	• ***Achieve structural transformation of the economy towards higher productivity sectors and activities based on low carbon and environmentally sustainable technologies*** • ***Implement natural resource management policies and programmes to support and sustain value addition in natural resource-based industries***

Issue	**Equality among and between nations**
Targets in Co-Chairs zero draft (2 June)	Proposed Goal 10 addresses these issues, filling a major gap in previous working drafts.
Targets proposed by LDC Group	a. Achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population that is higher than the national average through 2030 b. Enhance the voice and participation of LDCs in the global decision making process c. Balance the interest of lenders with that of borrowers in the governance of international financial institutions
Discussion	Economic inequality is a threat to sustainable development whether it occurs within countries or between them. The LDC Group's proposed target to achieve accelerated growth of the bottom 40% of the population has been taken up verbatim in the zero draft. The LDC Group should continue to support its inclusion, as it offers a strong guidance on reducing income inequality within nations. With the many targets in the zero draft that address gender and other forms of discrimination, there is now a strong package of targets aimed at reducing inequality within countries. The issue of inequality between countries has not been dealt with as satisfactorily in the zero draft. Most of the targets under the heading of "international actions to reduce inequalities among nations" are general and vague. Leaving 25% of all nations behind, stigmatized as "Least Developed Countries" cannot be an acceptable outcome of a major global effort to achieve sustainable development. The SDGs must include specific targets and actions aimed at closing the gap between LDCs and other countries. The LDC Group may wish to propose a dedicated target on DPTL, for example: ***Enshrine the principle of differential and preferential treatment for LDCs in international agreements related to all aspects of the global economy and environment in order to progressively reduce inequality among countries.*** This target would complement a reformulation of Target 10.12: "*Achieve long term debt sustainability including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relieve and debt restructuring in developing countries."* The chronic under-representation of LDCs in international decision-making and governance arrangements is well illustrated in the OWG itself, where LDCs, despite representing more than 25% of UN Member States, hold only 11% of the seats. Many institutions that play a central role in international decision-making have governance structures that favour wealthier countries over

	those whose stake in development decision-making is the greatest and whose experience of development progress in today's world is strongest, including the LDCs. New forms of international development decision-making based on equity, solidarity and relationships of trust are an essential pre-requisite for sustainable development. A target capturing these issues could read as follows: ***Reform the governance regimes in international institutions, including international finance institutions, to fully achieve effective and democratic participation of all developing countries.***

Issue	**Climate and disaster resilience**
Targets in Co-Chairs zero draft (2 June)	Targets, which are embedded in multiple goals, include 1.6, 2.8, 6.7, 6.8, 11.6 and all targets under Goal 13 (Climate change)
Targets proposed by LDC Group	The LDC Group has called for climate change to be included as a stand-alone goal in the SDGs. It has emphasized that given the special needs of LDCs, the principle of DPTL must be applied to this goal. It has insisted on an ambitious target to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Its statements have largely focused on the financial support and access to technologies that LDCs will need to adapt and build resilience to climate change. Under MoI, they have called for enhanced financial support to LDCs at a specific percentage from sources including the Green Climate Fund, the LDC Fund and the Clean Development Mechanism.
Discussion	There is a growing body of evidence indicating that climate impacts are already occurring and are disproportionately affecting LDCs. LDCs have suffered around 1.3 million deaths from climate related disasters since 1980 – more than half the total for the entire world. The situation is only getting worse: between January 2010 and July 2013, 67% of climate-related disaster deaths occurred in LDCs[14]. The vulnerabilities of LDCs are compounded by climate change, posing major threats to livelihoods, especially of the poor and to national economic growth. The latest (April 2014) report of the IPCC indicates that "only major institutional and technological change will give a better than even chance that global warming will not exceed the 2 degree threshold"[15]. These latest IPCC findings imply that the 1.5 degree target proposed by the LDC Group may be impossible to achieve. Given a 2 degree or greater scenario, the costs of adapting to climate change will be enormous for LDCs. Achievement of the SDGs is inextricably linked to mitigating climate change and building resilience and adaptive capacity. A stand-alone goal on climate change does not have universal

[14] Ciplet, D. et al. 2013. A burden to share? Addressing unequal climate impacts in the Least Developed Countries. IIED Briefing. November 2013. http://pubs.iied.org/17181IIED.html?c=climate&r=p.

[15] Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change Press Release, 13 April 2014: "IPCC: Greenhouse gas emissions accelerate despite reduction efforts." http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/pr_wg3/20140413_pr_pc_wg3_en.pdf.

	support among Member States, and the LDC Group will need to continue putting forward strong arguments for its inclusion. The most effective arguments are likely to be based on building an enabling environment for countries to adapt and build resilience to climate change. While all countries have much work to do in that regard, LDCs have among the most. Less than one seventh of the US$5 billion estimated to meet LDC's most urgent adaptation needs has been delivered, despite commitments and promises by wealthy countries[16]. In addition to finance, LDCs need support for capacity building and access to technologies to adapt to current changes and build resilience to future impacts. MoI must strongly address these needs. The LDC Group could consider proposing a target that pulls together the main points it has raised on climate change such as, "***Mobilize the full amount of financial and technological resources required for all countries to adapt effectively and build resilience to climate change based on the principles of CBDR and polluter pays***". While climate change poses a major threat to LDCs, and an existential threat to some small island and low-lying LDCs, it also offers an opportunity for LDCs to achieve structural transformation and other sustainable development objectives through "leapfrogging" directly to climate-resilient low carbon technologies and energy sources, if supported with adequate technology and finance. A number of LDCs have already begun to move in that direction[17]. LDCs might therefore wish to consider ***a target or MoI in support of implementation of low carbon development policies and strategies.***

Issue	**Natural resources and ecosystem services**
Targets in Co-Chairs zero draft (2 June)	See targets under proposed Goals 13 and 14
Targets proposed by LDC Group	The LDC Group has supported targets related to: • supporting small-scale fisheries; • improving ocean governance; • protecting and restoring forest, mountain and coastal ecosystems; • including indigenous and local groups in decision-making on the management and use of natural resources It has not supported targets that could imply obligations by LDCs related to ecosystem degradation and pollution caused by the actions of industrialized countries.
Discussion	The zero draft, although an improvement over previous drafts, still inadequately addresses the crucial contribution of natural resources and ecosystem services to poverty eradication and economic growth. The goal framework and targets must do a better job at making the linkages between human and economic development and the environment. This indeed has been a major

[16] Ciplet et al. 2013. Op. cit.

[17] Fisher 2013. Op. cit.

	justification for the SDGs since they were first proposed at Rio+20. Because LDC economies are now heavily reliant on commodity extraction, natural resource depletion is extremely high. The cost of natural resource depletion is nearly 13% of GNI in LDCs. In OECD countries it averages less than 1%. Those rates of depletion are clearly unsustainable, and must be sharply curtailed. The most effective way to make that shift is through investment in value added activities that produce more growth while consuming fewer natural resources. LDCs would greatly benefit from an SDGs target aimed at reducing rates of natural resource depletion to levels that are sustainable over the long terms, e.g, ***By 2030 reduce the rate of natural resource depletion as a percentage of GNI to x%***. X should be an ambitious figure and as close as feasible to 1%, but would necessarily need to be differentiated to reflect national baselines at 2015. This target would be usefully complemented by a target that would shift countries towards more integrated systems of national accounting, e.g., ***By 2030 incorporate natural resource and ecosystem service values into national capital accounting systems.*** In their proposals, LDCs have already recognized the central importance of participatory natural resource management regimes in protecting the natural resource-based livelihoods and optimizing the contribution of ecosystem services to poverty reduction. A strong target is needed to capture this issue. ***By 2030 establish natural resource management regimes that involve the full and equitable participation of stakeholders, especially small-scale and community resource users, and aim for sustainable resource use*** would address the issues on participatory decision-making raised in the LDC Group intervention of 8 May. It would also reflect the recent proposal of Biovision and the Millennium Institute[18] to include as a target: *Ensure that the rural and urban poor benefit from actions towards ecosystem restoration and protection in order to end poverty and increase resilience.*

Issue	**Finance for development**
Targets in Co-Chairs zero draft (2 June)	Relevant targets are mainly found in Goal 17 (MoI), including 17.3, 17.4, 17.27, 17.28, and 17.40. A number of other MoI targets indicate areas in which investment is required, e.g., 17.9, 17.15, 17.17 and 17.20.
Targets proposed by LDC Group	a. Ensure the fulfillment of ODA commitments of 0.15-0.20 percent of GNI of the development partners to the LDCs by 2020, and the alignment of aid with LDCs' national priorities forthwith b. Donor countries review their ODA commitments in 2015 and commit to allocate at least 50% of ODA to LDCs c. Enhance support for domestic resource mobilization of LDCs through comprehensive measures and cooperation including investment in productive sectors in order to significantly

[18] Biovision and Millennium Institute. "Reaction to Proposed Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture." Circulated 8 June 2014.

	increase the domestic resources to GDP ratio d. Strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery and money laundering and the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by both public and private entities e. Explore new, additional, long-term innovative sources of finance and strengthen and scale up existing ones; and earmark 50% of such financing for LDCs f. Adopt, expand and implement dedicated investment promotion regimes for LDCs g. Provide enhanced levels of climate finance to LDCs at a specific percentage, including through the Green Climate Fund, the LDC Fund and the Clean Development Mechanism. LDCs and their development partners have already committed to proposed targets a, c, d, and f under the IPoA.
Discussion	Achieving the SDGs will require a tremendous scaling up of development finance in LDCs with a progressive shift to a much more diversified portfolio of sources of finance than is now the case. The LDC Group's proposals on development finance indicate the need for action on a range of fronts including ODA, FDI, domestic resource mobilization and climate finance. Donor countries have a commitment to provide 0.15-0.20 percent of GNI as ODA to LDCs that dates back to the UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in 1990. The commitment was reaffirmed at indicator level in the MDG framework and again in the IPoA and the 2012 Rio+20 Declaration. Few donor countries have yet to honor this commitment; in fact, ODA from OECD countries to LDCs has actually been decreasing annually since 2010, and this trend is projected to continue through 2014[19]. Given the scale of development finance that LDCs will require over the next 15 years, the SDGs must include targets that would help reverse this negative trend by inducing donor countries to honor existing commitments and to direct their development assistant to those countries whose need is greatest. The call for a commitment of 50% of ODA to LDCs could induce the more progressive donor countries to shift their allocations towards support to LDCs. As the LDC Group has insisted, all targets must address not only the quantity but also the quality of ODA. In order for LDCs to be able to build a strong and diversified portfolio of financial flows for development, ODA must be structured to have a catalytic effect, particularly through leveraging finance for productive capacity-building. In all cases ODA must be fully aligned to national priorities and largely delivered through direct budgetary support. However important ODA is to LDCs now, and despite a rebound in global figures in 2013, ODA is likely to continue to decline in scale and importance relative to other sources of development finance in the coming years. The SDGs must therefore help position LDCs

[19] According to OECD DAC figures, total ODA from donor countries to LDCs represented .09% of GNI in 2012, a decrease of .01% from 2011. http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/statisticsonresourceflowstodevelopingcountries.htm. Although there was a small overall increase in 2013, it is attributed to a scaling up of debt relief aid for Myamar. See http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/aid-to-developing-countries-rebounds-in-2013-to-reach-an-all-time-high.htm for details.

	to mobilize and scale up other forms of finance, particularly domestic sources and foreign investment that support structural transformation and productive capacity building. To move towards diversification of development finance channels, ODA and other international finance sources should support LDCs to establish and capitalize national development finance facilities such as national or sub-regional development banks. This important piece of development finance architecture is lacking in many LDCs, greatly constraining national private sector development, including agriculture and small businesses. ODA should also focus on improving the investment climate in LDCs, e.g., by supporting the development of the insurance and commercial banking sectors and creating government-managed loan guarantee and preferential finance programs. Additional priorities for LDCs to increase financial resources for development include: • support to the promotion of job-producing foreign direct investment; • reduction in the international transfer costs of remittances; and • enactment of international regulations to address illicit financial flows and tax evasion ***The targets proposed by the LDCs on development finance comprise a strong package, and the LDC Group should promote them as such***. Each component strengthens the overall set of targets and no single target is more important than any other. The LDC Group should not let their ongoing struggle to get donor countries to live up to their commitments distract them from attention to other channels of development finance that are likely to be of greater importance over the long term.

Issue	**Trade**
Targets in Co-Chairs zero draft (2 June)	Targets 17.2 and 17.22-17.25
Targets proposed by LDC Group	The LDC Group supports the above targets, with amendments which are indicated in italics below: a. Enhance market access for *all* LDC products with *full* realization of duty-free quota-free (DFQF) commitments on a lasting basis for all LDCs, *with simplified rules of origin and dismantling all non-tariff and para-tariff barriers*. b. *By 2020*, achieve open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial systems, including complying with the mandate for agriculture, services and non-agricultural products of the WTO Doha Round, implementing the outcomes of the WTO Bali Declaration *and eliminating all harmful subsidies.* *c.* Improve market access for agricultural, fisheries and industrial exports of developing countries, *especially Least Developed*

	Countries, and at least double the share of LDCs' exports in global exports by 2020 and increase by an additional 300% by 2030. d. Increase trade-related capacity-building assistance, by providing *at least 50% of* the total Aid for Trade disbursement to LDCs, and *significantly* enhancing resource allocation for the "Enhanced Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs".
Discussion	Despite including more than 25% of the world's nations and around 12.5% of global population, LDCs only account for around 1% of global exports, more than 70% of which is in the form of primary commodities, which neither generate decent jobs nor support structural transformation through value addition. While some LDCs have increased their share of trade in recent years, in many others levels have remained stagnant or even declined. Despite commitments regarding preferential treatment to improve their ability to compete in global markets, LDCs still face substantial barriers, especially given the continuing erosion of preferences as a result of trade liberalization. The WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005 set target of 97% realization of DFQF market access on for all LDCs, with simplified rules of origin. This target is echoed in Target 8c of the MDGs and in the IPoA. However, the commitment has not yet been fulfilled. According to the latest (2011) figures available from the UN Integrated Implementation Framework tracking system on the MDGs, 17% of LDC exports "continue to face steep tariffs"[20]. A host of unjustified non-tariff barriers and other trade-distorting measures further impede the ability of LDCs greatly to make progress along the lines laid out in the IPoA. ***The LDC Group should continue to promote a strong package targets on trade as essential components of effective and sustainable development of LDCs.***

[20] http://iif.un.org/content/wto-hong-kong-dfqf-target/

Table 1: Goal and target matrix

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere			
	1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty by bringing the number of people living on less than $1.25 a day to zero.	Recommend inclusion as "End extreme poverty by 2030"	This target may not be necessary as national poverty lines offer a more accurate measure of income poverty in specific national contexts than an across-the-board $1.25/day measure
	1.2 Reduce by at least x% the proportion of people living below national poverty lines by 2030	Recommend reformulation as follows: "Bring the proportion of people living below national poverty lines to zero by 2030".	This should be the main target for eradicating extreme poverty.
	1.3 By 2030 fully implement nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors, with a focus on coverage of the poor, the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations	Recommend inclusion	
	1.4 By 2030, achieve equal access to productive employment and decent work for all, including the poor, persons with disabilities, and other people in vulnerable situations as well as women and young people	Recommend inclusion	This target should include 5-year benchmarks of progress with a strong benchmark for 2020. Indicators should be disaggregated to track progress of specific populations, e.g., women, young people, disabled
	1.5 By 2030, ensure development opportunities for all women and men, including secure rights to own land, property and other productive resources and access to financial services, with particular focus on the poor, the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations		This target would contribute to both resilience-building and multidimensional poverty reduction. The LDC Group should consider supporting it.
	1.6 By 2030 strengthen early warning and disaster risk reduction systems and related capacities with the aim of building resilience and protecting the poor and those in vulnerable situations from disasters and shocks, including climate-related events	Recommend inclusion, with one minor amendment: "... *natural and human-induced* disasters, shocks and risks…"	Resilience-building of the poor is essential for sustaining gains in poverty reduction in LDCs and should remain in future texts
	1.7 Pursue sustained and inclusive economic growth as a key enabler for achieving poverty eradication		
	1.8 Integrate biodiversity conservation measures into national and local development strategies, planning processes and poverty reduction strategies		
		Include an additional target: "End multidimensional poverty"	See detailed comments in Section 4.3

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
2. End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all and promote sustainable agriculture		Reformulate Goal to include reference to rural development	The goal could be reformulated as follows: *End hunger and improve nutrition for all through sustainable agriculture, equitable food systems and resilient rural economies.* Rural economies support food security not just through agricultural production but through a range of other services such as processing, transport and marketing through the food value chain. Rural economies must also generate other forms of income for smallholders especially to reinvest in agriculture and to buy food they cannot grow themselves.
	2.1 End hunger and assure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round by 2030	Recommend inclusion	The target could be improved by reformulating slightly to read: "By 2030, adequate, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food is available to all people (whether rural or urban dwellers) all year". This target explicitly notes the need for food security for urban as well as rural populations. Poor urban communities are among the most food-insecure. MoI for this target should include actions to cushion the poor from the effects of food price volatility related to food subsidies and other factors. Such actions should include the establishment of a international food bank primarily serving LDCs during food crises, as called for in the IPoA, and creation of a virtual reserve to reduce the probability of price spikes that could have a severe effect on the poor[21]
	2.2 End malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity and overweight, with special attention to reducing stunting by 40% and wasting to less than 5% in children less than 5 years of age by 2025, and address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women	Recommend inclusion	This target can be transformed into indicators under target 2.1 above

[21] von Braun, J. and M. Torero. 2009. Implementing physical and virtual food reserves to protect the poor and prevent market failure. IFPRI Policy Brief 10, February 2009. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute. http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bp010.pdf.

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	2.3 By 2030, substantially increase small-scale food producers' incomes and productivity, including small family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, with a particular focus on women	Recommend inclusion as follows: "By 2030, substantially increase smallholder food producers' income and productivity through access to adequate inputs, productive resources, financial services and markets for small farmers and fishers, with a particular focus on women and indigenous peoples."	Experience suggests that this objective may be most effectively achieved by through an emphasis on policies and governance arrangements that empower and engage small producers, e.g, "By 2030 achieve the active participation of small farmers and fishers, with a particular focus on women and indigenous people, in defining the priorities for agriculture programmes and policies at local government and national level."
	2.4 By 2030 achieve access to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources, financial service and markets, especially for small and family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, with a particular focus on women	Recommend inclusion but in combination with 2.3 as indicated above	In order to streamline targets, this target could be turned into a set of indicators under target 2.3
	2.5 By 2030, develop food systems that are more productive, sustainable, resilient and efficient, and minimize adverse human and environmental impacts without compromising food and nutrition security		The LDC Group has argued for a target to "increase agricultural productivity by at least three times". Consultation with agricultural experts indicates that such a target is not likely to be achievable, or be desirable, across the board; and the emphasis instead should be on improving inputs that can lead to sustainable productivity gains. The LDC Group should therefore consider supporting the target proposed in the zero draft.
	2.6 By 2030 reduce by 50% global food waste at retail and consumer levels		
	2.7 By 2030 reduce by 50% production and post-harvest food losses and those along the food supply chain		The LDC Group should consider supporting, as reduction of post-harvest losses can contribute substantially to improving food security
	2.8 By 2030, fully implement agricultural practices that strengthen resilience and adaptation to extreme weather, drought, climate change and natural disasters, in particular for small-scale farmers	Recommend inclusion, with associated MoI on transfer of technologies and technical know-how, including high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties.	
	2.9 Achieve by 2030 protection of agricultural biodiversity, including through enhanced use and application of indigenous practices and local and traditional knowledge, and through agricultural research and development related to agro-biodiversity and diversity of food		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	2.10 Improve effectiveness of addressing humanitarian food emergencies, including as appropriate through stockholding	Recommend rephrasing to focus on a system of stocktaking, e.g., "Pursue options for development of a system of stockholding to deal with humanitarian food emergencies and as a means to limit price volatility."	LDCs have rightly argued for a stockholding system that can also provide a means to address price volatility, which is a major threat to food security in many LDCs, over which affected countries have little control
	2.11 By 2030 fully implement measures that curb excessive food price volatility and ensure proper functioning of markets	This appears to be a response to the LDC recommendation on a target to "Reshape trade policies to eliminate harmful agricultural subsidies"	
		The LDC Group propose under MoI "Provide enhanced financial and technical support to the development of the agricultural sector"	Many LDCs have already made a commitment through the Maputo Declaration (2003) to invest 10% of their national budgets per year in agriculture, but few have been able to achieve the target. An SDG target on agricultural investment would help direct international resources to this critical need of LDCs, whose economies and poverty reducing efforts are heavily reliant on agriculture and likely to continue to be for many years to come. The target could be worded as follows: "Invest x% of national budget per year in building productive capacity in the agricultural sector, with an emphasis on quality investment"
3. Healthy life at all ages for all		LDCs would like this goal to include the following target, derived from the IPoA: "Take steps to realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health"	MoI for all targets under this goal must support local government and non-governmental institutions that carry most of the responsibility for delivering health care. MoI must support dissemination of information on health risks and their causes to such agencies and down to household levels to guide investment and action.
	3.1 By 2030 reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 40 per 100,000 live births, and reduce by x% child and maternal morbidity	Recommend inclusion	x% should be replaced with a numerical target per thousand, given the widely varying baselines of countries and the need for all to reach a globally acceptable standard.
	3.2 By 2030 end preventable newborn, infant and under-five deaths	Recommend inclusion	
	3.3 By 2030 end HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases	Recommend inclusion	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	3.4 By 2030 reduce by x% premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), reduce deaths from injuries, including halving road traffic deaths, promote mental health and wellbeing and strengthen prevention and treatment of narcotic drug and substance abuse	Recommend inclusion	
	3.5 By 2030 increase healthy life expectancy for all by x%		
	3.6 Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, with particular attention to the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations	Recommend inclusion	
	3.7 By 2030 ensure universal availability and access to affordable essential medicines, vaccines and medical technologies for all	Recommend inclusion	
	3.8 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health for all	See proposed LDC Group target above	
	3.9 By 2030 decrease by x% the number of deaths and illnesses from indoor and outdoor air pollution		
		Add a target on strengthening national health systems which addresses the following: a) Increasing the ratio of health professionals in the population; b) Building capacity to systematically collect and analyse demographic data to inform policy development; c) promoting youth exchange programmes, including through virtual campuses and other networking mechanisms (agreed in IPoA); d) Providing enhanced financial, technical and technological support to building health-related infrastructure	Health expenditure per capita in LDCs is around US$40 per year, against a global average of more than $1,000 per year and $4,600 per year in OECD countries. And while heath care expenditure is increasing in most of the world, it has barely changed over the last decade in LDCs (World Bank indicators 2001-2011). This gap represents the huge deficit in trained medical personnel, technology, services and infrastructure in LDCs, which must be addressed in order to achieve the global goal of healthy lives for all.
4. Provide equitable and inclusive quality education and			MoI under this goal area must support local governments, which usually have primary responsibility for primary and

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
life-long learning for all			sometimes higher education.
	4.1 By 2030 ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	Unfinished business of the MDGs; recommend inclusion.	
	4.2 By 2030 ensure equal access for all to affordable quality tertiary education and life-long learning	Recommend inclusion	
	4.3 By 2030 increase by x% the proportion of children able to access and complete inclusive quality pre-primary education and other early childhood development programmes	Recommend inclusion, with an ambition to achieve universal access by 2030.	Closely linked to "effective learning outcomes" in 4.1; could be included as an indicator under that target
	4.4 Achieve universal youth and adult literacy and numeracy and an increase by x% of adult literacy and basic numeracy by 2030	Recommend inclusion	As above; differentiated x% targets will be required to support LDCs to rapidly catch up with other countries, given their lower baselines
	4.5 By 2030 increase by x% the number of young and adult women and men with vocational training, ICT technical, engineering and scientific skills	Recommend inclusion	Very high priority for LDCs as it is essential to achievement of structural transformation priorities covered under Goals 8 and 9.
	4.6 By 2030 ensure that people in vulnerable situations and marginalized people including persons with disabilities and indigenous people have access to inclusive education, skills development and vocational training aligned to labour market needs	Recommend inlusion	
	4.7 By 2030 integrate relevant knowledge and skills in education curricula and training programs, including ICT education for sustainable development, and awareness raising on culture's contribution to sustainable development	Recommend inclusion	
	4.8 By 2030 ensure that all schools and other educational institutions provide safe, healthy, non-discriminatory and inclusive learning environment for all	Recommend inclusion	
	4.9 By 2030 enhance the quality of teaching through promoting training for teachers	Recommend inclusion	
5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls	Unfinished business of MDGs; recommend inclusion.	
	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces	Unfinished business of MDGs; recommend inclusion.	
	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	5.4 Ensure equal access to education and eliminate gender disparities at all levels of education and training	Rephrase to include "… education at all levels, basic services, health care, economic opportunities and decision-making at all levels"	It is widely agreed, and noted in the IPoA, that gender can be an impediment to access to many more services and opportunities than education. This target should therefore be expanded, with each aspect dealt with individually at the indicator level.
	5.5 Ensure women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for work of equal value	Recommend inclusion	Targets 5.5-5.8 could be transformed into indicators under a reformulated target 5.4
	5.6 Reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through shared responsibility		
	5.7 Ensure women's equal access to, control and ownership of assets and natural and other productive resources, as well as non-discriminatory access to essential services and infrastructure, including financial services and ICT	Recommend inclusion	
	5.8 Ensure full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women in decision-making in the public and private spheres		
	5.9 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD		
	5.10 Promote the availability of gender disaggregated data to improve gender equality policies, including gender sensitive budgeting	Recommend inclusion	Very important and should be addressed along with other issues related to data management under MoI
	5.11 Fully engage men and boys in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls		
6. Secure water and sanitation for all for a sustainable world		Recommend inclusion of these target areas, along with MoI to support LDCs with the necessary finance and technology to implement	
	6.1 By 2030, provide universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all		This target highlights the need for effective and disaggregated monitoring and data management systems. LDC-relevant indicators needed to track the many dimensions of this target must include: a) provision of facilities and infrastructure (e.g., % of households with piped water/good quality toilets/washing facilities in their homes); % of informal communities with safe, easy and affordable access to public toilets; % of rural and urban

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
			population with water that is safe to drink
	6.2 By 2030 provide universal access to safe and affordable sanitation and hygiene including at home, schools, health centers and refugee camps, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls		This seems to repeat aspects of 6.1; suggest merging
	6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by significantly reducing pollution, eliminating dumping of toxic materials, and improving wastewater management by x%, recycling and reuse by x%		A % measure of improvement is not possible. This target should be reformulated to include measurable changes such as shares of wastewater and levels of treatment.
	6.4 By 2030, improve water-use efficiency by x% in all sectors		
	6.5 Implement integrated water resource management, including appropriate trans-boundary co-operation		MoI must make provision for capacity building for LDCs to develop and implement IWRM policies and strategies
	6.6 Ensure sustainable extraction and supply of fresh water and by 2020 protect and restore ecosystems and aquifers that provide water-related services		
	6.7 By 2030 decrease by x% mortality, and decrease by y% economic losses caused by natural and human-induced water-related disasters		
	6.8 Provide adequate facilities and infrastructure, both built and natural for safe drinking water and sanitation systems, for productive uses of water resources and for mitigating the impacts of water-related disasters		
7. Ensure access to affordable, sustainable and reliable modern energy services for all			See detailed comments on this goal area in Section 4.3
	7.1 By 2030 ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services for all	Recommend inclusion	
	7.2 Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030	To align with the IPoA target on renewable energy and focus on the priority need for electricity, recommend reformulating as follows: "At least double the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020, and double again by 2030"	
	7.3 Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	7.4 By 2030 increase by x% the share of clean energy technologies, including sustainable biomass and advanced cookstoves	Recommend inclusion, with MoI in support of clean technology transfer to LDCs on a preferential basis	
	7.5 By 2030 phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, with solutions that aim to secure affordable energy for the poorest	Target not relevant for LDCs and requires wording to reflect differentiation of responsibilities and actions	From a climate mitigation perspective, the 2030 target date is unacceptably unambitious for high-emitting countries
	7.6 By 2030 expand and upgrade as appropriate infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas, including with a view to doubling primary energy supply per capita in LDCs	Recommend inclusion but rephrase as follows: "…rural and urban areas, to achieve at least x level of total primary energy supply per capita for all countries by 2030" (with x representing the average per capita energy supply for all non-LDC developing countries). MoI should include enhanced financial support to LDCs for modern energy infrastructure development and service delivery, as agreed in the IPoA	Given the huge energy supply deficit in most LDCs, and the barrier it imposes to productive capacity-building, structural transformation and economic growth, a target of doubling primary energy supply per capita by 2030 is grossly inadequate. The aim must be to rapidly bring LDCs up to the level of other developing countries if progress across all goals is to be achieved.
8. Promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent jobs for all		Support breaking this cluster down with growth, infrastructure and employment each as a stand-alone goal	
		Include here or as an overarching target: "Enable half of all LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020 and all LDCs meet the criteria by 2030, resulting in the eventual elimination of the LDC category"	See detailed comments and justification in Section 4.3
	8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth of at least x% per annum (with x being set at a level appropriate to national circumstances)	Recommend inclusion with an ambitious x% included for LDCs, and a 40% investment to GDP ratio sub-target for LDCs	The 7% annual growth target for LDCs included in the IPoA should be used as the minimum x% for LDCs. LDCs and other low income countries clearly need to attain higher growth rates than other countries to reduce income inequality between countries. Indicators for this target should include investment to GDP ratios, which now average 22% for LDCs, below the 25% minimum necessary to sustain levels of production and consumption in the long term. Indicators will also be required to assure that growth is not only on track and sustained, but also inclusive and job-rich.

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	8.2 Sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the income distribution of each country by at least y (and greater than x)% to reduce income inequalities by 2030	Recommend inclusion in a formulation that clearly indicates a differentially higher income growth rate for the bottom 40%	The target is repeated, with improved wording reflecting the LDC Group's concerns, in Target 10.2 below. This target 8.2 can therefore be deleted.
	8.3 By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities	Support inclusion, with MoI on promotion of non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas	This target is now included also under Goal 1. The two slightly different formulations should be merged and included only once
	8.4 By 2020 halve the number of youth not in employment, education or training by 2020	Amend to include a final clause, as follows: "… and reduce to zero by 2030"	Differential x% targets based on national circumstances would eliminate problems with the draft wording related to low baselines and high population growth rates of LDCs; the additional 2030 target is needed to sustain progress beyond 2020.
	8.5 Create a sound macroeconomic environment with strong fiscal and monetary policies		
	8.6 Create an enabling environment for business with strong national institutions and policies that support investment and promote competition		
	8.7 Create incentives for the development of sustainable tourism which takes into account community participation, local culture and local products	MoI should include facilitation of investment in tourism infrastructure for LDCs	
	8.8 Create enabling conditions for increased growth and productivity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including through policies that promote entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and through improved access to markets and financial services	High priority for LDCs, recommend inclusion	Micro and small enterprises make up a substantial part of the economy in LDCs and are the main source of income for much of the population, including the poor.
	8.9 Increase the share of high productivity sectors and activities in the economy, and strengthen productive capacities through technological upgrading and greater value addition and product diversification, with a particular focus on LDCs	Major priority for LDCs. Recommend inclusion of a more concrete, measurable target (and set of indicators)	MoI should include support to LDCs, including through climate finance and technology transfer, to "leapfrog" directly to low carbon technologies
	8.10 Promote greater resource efficiency of economic activities, including through sustainable supply chains, according to national circumstances and capacities		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	8.11 Support the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for transport, energy, water and communications, in particular in developing countries with a focus on access for the rural and urban poor	High priority for LDCs, recommend inclusion	Needs to be rewritten as a measurable target, such as achievement of 100% access to infrastructure by rural and urban populations by 2030. Indicators will be required to track progress of LDCs towards their IPoA targets on transport, energy and communication infrastructure. There should be further LDC-specific benchmarks beyond 2020.
	8.12 Improve regional and trans-border infrastructure to promote effective regional economic integration and facilitate trade	Recommend inclusion	
	8.13 End child labour by 2030, protect the rights and ensure safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment		
	8.14 Promote formalization of informal sector activities and employment	Recommend inclusion	Given the central role of the informal economy in providing livelihoods for the poor and those temporarily or permanently unable to secure formal employment, this target could unintentionally encourage policies and actions that would increase poverty and household vulnerability. LDCs should consider their position on this target with great care. The focus should be on increasing security and improving conditions of work for those of informal employment rather than eliminating the informal sector.
	8.15 By 2030 lower the overall costs of migration processes and minimize transactions costs of remittances	Recommend inclusion, with an additional clause reading “and foster the developmental impacts of migration”	Migration is an important development resource for LDCs, with major poverty reducing, economic and social benefits. It allows young people opportunities for higher education that may not exist at home. It increases household incomes through remittances from family members in higher earning employment than that available at home. The MoI should include measures aimed at maximizing such development benefits, including establishing structures to facilitate short-term migration, especially for workers and students from LDCs.
	8.16 Explore the possibility of a broader system of capital accounting looking beyond GDP		While LDCs would require support to address this target, they would benefit greatly from

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	and incorporating social, human and environmental capital		implementing systems that would integrate their natural assets into capital accounts and allow them to monitor and manage natural resource use and depletion. Suggest therefore that the LDC Group consider supporting this proposed target.
9. Promote sustainable industrialization			This Goal is of crucial importance to LDCs. More work is still needed to improve the targets so they can have maximum value and impact. Additional comments relevant to this Goal are included in Section 4.3 under Structural transformation and productive capacity-building
	9.1 Achieve structural transformation of economies towards progressively higher levels of productivity in all sectors and activities	Strongly support inclusion	
	9.2 Respect national policy space and national circumstances for industrial development, particularly in developing countries	Strongly support inclusion	
	9.3 Ensure a conducive policy environment for industrial development, including encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of micro- and SMEs	Strongly support inclusion	
	9.4 Significantly raise industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national strategies, including doubling manufacturing's share in LDCs by 2030	Strongly support inclusion	
	9.5 Increase industrial diversification in developing countries, including through enhanced domestic processing of raw materials and commodities and through new product development	Strongly support inclusion but should explicitly refer to all major industrial sectors (manufacturing, agriculture and services) and to value addition, in line with the IPoA.	
	9.6 Support the integration of developing country industrial enterprises, particularly in Africa and LDCs, into regional and global value chains	Support inclusion in combination with 9.5	
	9.7 Create decent industrial sector jobs and promote job-rich industrial development	Recommend inclusion	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	9.8 Promote industrial research, development and innovation, including raising the ratio of R&D workers per one million people by x% and the share of R&D spending in GDP by y%		
	9.9 Upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in developing countries, including middle-income countries, and improve industrial resource efficiency by accelerating the development, transfer and adoption of environmentally sound technologies and processes		
	9.10 Promote indigenous technology development and the growth of domestic innovation in developing countries		
	9.11 By 2030 retrofit x% of existing industries with clean technologies and environmentally sound industrial processes to achieve y% energy and z% resource-efficiency improvement, with all countries taking action, developed countries taking the lead and developing countries following a similar pattern taking into account their development needs and capabilities	LDCs would require external financial and technical support to implement this target	
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries			See detailed comments on this goal area in Section 4.3
10a Reduce inequality among social groups within countries			
	10.1 By 2030 eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices		
	10.2 Achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population that is higher than the national average through 2030	Recommend inclusion	
	10.3 By 2030 reduce inequalities of opportunity and outcome among social groups, including economic, social and environmental inequalities	Recommend inclusion	
	10.4 Work towards reversing the decline of the share of labour income in GDP where relevant		
	10.5 Empower and promote the social and economic inclusion of the poor, the marginalized and people in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, women, minorities, migrants, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth	Support inclusion	

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	10.6 Promote and respect cultural diversity		
	10.7 Ensure the availability of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data to ensure monitoring of progress for marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations		
International actions to reduce inequalities among nations	10.8 Establish measures at global level to reduce inequality among countries	Replace with targets that directly deal with a) fully democratizing, and enhancing the voice and participation of LDCs in, all global decision-making processes; and b) closing the per capita GDP gap between LDCs and other countries through rapid economic growth	As indicated in statements by the LDC Group, the focus of this goal area must be on addressing the systemic barriers to reducing inequality between nations. The LDC Group proposal of Differential and Preferential Treatment of LDCs is a highly appropriate instrument for overcoming at least some of those barriers
	10.9 Promote strong international institutions, including through the conclusion of reforms for increasing effective and democratic participation of developing countries in international financial institutions	Rephrase to read: "… through reforms to balance the interests of lenders and borrowers in the governance of international financial institutions"	See justification in main body of paper.
	10.10 Improve regulation of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen their implementation		
	10.11 Facilitate greater international mobility of labour while mitigating brain drain	Recommend inclusion	See comments on role of migration in development of LDCs under 8.15 above
	10.12 Assist developing countries in attaining long term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring	High priority for LDCs. Rephrase as follows: "Support debt relief for developing countries on a sustainable basis, including through the cancellation of multilateral and bilateral owed by LDCs to creditors, both public and private"	Debt relief must be considered in the context of financing for development and particularly of supporting LDCs to move to more comprehensive, reliable and sustainable development finance than is currently the case
11. Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements			
	11.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere	Recommend reformulation as follows: By 2030 ensure *security of land tenure and* universal access…" MoI must include adequate resources for LDCs to implement	MoI must focus on resourcing community associations and local governments to carry out actions necessary to achieve this target, which depends largely on local-level implementation. MoI should also include provision for learning from city governments that have effectively worked with residents to upgrade slums and squatter settlements and extend and improve infrastructure and services.
	11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and	Recommend inclusion	

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	sustainable transport for all, expand public transport and improve road safety		
	11.3 Enhance capacities for integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management for all, particularly developing countries	Recommend reformulation to insert the following phrase, "… human settlement planning and *sustainable management that provides for healthy family life and children and youth wellbeing and participation*"	
	11.4 Strengthen positive economic and social links between cities and per-urban and rural areas		
	11.5 By 2030, reduce the environmental impacts of cities and improve the quality of environment in cities		
	11.6 By 2020, increase by x% the number of human settlements adopting and implementing policies and plans towards resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters	Support inclusion of a target on increasing resilience to climate change and disasters	
	11.7 Enhance social cohesion and personal security, and ensure universal access to inclusive and safe public spaces		
	11.8 By 2030 ensure that all cities are accessible and offer opportunities to persons with disabilities		
	11.9 Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage		
12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns		The LDC Group takes the view that most of the targets listed here are important but relevant largely to industrialized countries, and that the level of waste and consumption in LDCs remains very low. The Group therefore calls for clearly differentiated targets and responsibilities under this goal area	
	12.1 Time-bound effective implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP)	Recommend inclusion, along with the formulation of a target reflecting the polluter pays principle as articulated in Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration	
	12.2 By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources to enhance human welfare within the carrying capacity of ecosystems		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	12.3 Significantly improve the resource efficiency of economic activities and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, with all countries taking action, developed countries taking the lead, and developing countries following a similar pattern taking into account their development needs and capabilities		
	12.4 Promote sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and by 2030 significantly reduce the releases of chemicals and hazardous wastes to air, water and soil		
	12.5 By 2030 reduce waste by x% through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse		
	12.6 By 2030 at least halve per capita food waste at retail and consumer level, particularly in developed countries and countries with high per capita food waste		
	12.7 By 2030 redouble efforts to creating a culture of sustainable lifestyles, including through education, awareness raising, sustainability information on products and services, policies and incentives		
	12.8 By 2020, create economic incentives and scientific and technological capacities that enable and promote sustainable consumption and a circular economy		
	12.9 By 2030 increase by x% the number of companies, especially publicly listed and large companies, reporting on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including integrated reporting		
	12.10 By 2030, increase the share of private sector actors incorporating sustainable development principles in their business practices, including sustainable supply chains, with due regard to the circumstances and capacity needs of micro- and SMEs		
	12.11 By 2030 increase the share of sustainable products and services in public procurement, including through competitive and transparent procurement		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	processes		
13. Promote actions at all levels to address climate change [Build a climate change goal based on the outcome of COP21 of the UNFCCC]		LDCs strongly support a standalone goal on climate change that reflects differential treatment in terms of responsibilities and preferential treatment for LDCs in access to finance and technology	See detailed comments on this goal area in Section 4.3
	13.1 Hold the increase in global average temperature below an x°C rise in accordance with international agreements	Recommend inclusion, with "1.5°C above pre-industrial levels" replacing "an x°C rise"	
	13.2 Build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards in all vulnerable countries		
	13.3 By 20xx integrate climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into development plans and poverty reduction strategies		
	13.4 By 20xx introduce instruments and incentives for investments in low-carbon solutions in all relevant sectors		
	13.5 Improve education, awareness raising and institutional capacity on climate change impact reduction and early warning		
14. Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas		The LDC Group strongly supports this goal area, but suggests differentiated targets for issues related to pollution and degradation, given the minimal contribution of LDCs to these problems	
	14.1 By 2030, reduce by x% marine pollution of all kinds, including from land-based activities		
	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage, restore and protect marine ecosystems from destruction, including by strengthening their resilience, and support relevant scientific research	Recommend inclusion. MoI should provide support to LDCs to increase their scientific knowledge and research capacity and infrastructure.	
	14.3 Address and prevent further ocean acidification		
	14.4 By 2020 effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing to restore by 2030 fish stocks to ecologically safe levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield		
	14.5 Support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including by providing equitable access of small-scale and artisanal fishers to fisheries and markets	Recommend inclusion	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	14.6 Ensure the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes for managing oceans and seas by their state parties	Recommend inclusion	The LDC Group could consider suggesting rewording to address existing ocean governance gaps that have negative ecological and economic impacts on poor countries, and particularly LDCs that are also SIDS, e.g,: "Create new global institutional and legal frameworks for governing oceans and seas, incorporating existing regional and international regimes and filling governance gaps related to areas beyond national jurisdictions"
	14.7 By 2020, eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices	Recommend inclusion	
	14.8 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, including through establishing effectively managed marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information		
	14.9 By 2020 eliminate subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, taking into account the need of developing countries, notably least developed countries and SIDS	Did not support in its last configuration, which did not include the reference to the needs of LDCs	
	14.10 By 2030, increase the economic returns to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources from within their jurisdictions	Recommend inclusion	
	14.11 Implement integrated and participatory coastal management to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems	Recommend inclusion with a specific reference to coastal salinization, which is a major problem for many coastal LDCs	
15. Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss			
	15.1 By 2020 halt the loss of all biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	Recommend inclusion with MoI to address coverage of the direct and opportunity costs of implementation by LDCs	
	15.2 By 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, with particular attention to wetlands, including through restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems	As above	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	15.3 Maintain genetic diversity of both cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives through effective cooperation of national institutions		
	15.4 By 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and mountain ecosystems	Recommend inclusion	Forests and mountain ecosystems produce provide important economic, social and environmental benefits for LDCs, with high potential for development of value added products and services. The LDC Group should consider recommending that target 15.4 make specific reference to sustainable management *for national and local development*. Target 15.5 could be transformed into with indicators under 15.4.
	15.5 By 2030, reverse the loss of and enhance forest cover worldwide, increase reforestation by x%, including by providing adequate incentives for developing countries	Recommend inclusion	
	15.6 By 2030, halt and prevent land degradation, reclaim land affected by desertification and drought, and improve land productivity and soil quality	Recommend inclusion.	A priority for many LDCs and essential for increasing agricultural productivity (Targets 2.3, 2.5, 2.8 and 2.9).
	15.7 Ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources	Recommend inclusion	
	15.8 End poaching and trafficking of endangered species, and end demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	Recommend inclusion	
	15.9 Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and by 202 control or eliminate priority invasive species		
	15.10 Ensure free prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision making and natural resource management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge	Recommend inclusion in the following formulation: "Ensure inclusion of indigenous and local communities in decision-making; and ensure their free, prior and informed consent regarding the management and use of natural resources on which they depend, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge"	
	15.11 Integrate natural resources and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, and accounts	Recommend inclusion, along with MoI providing technical and financial support to LDCs to implement, as called for in the IPoA.	
16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of		The targets under the goal area appear to be biased towards national contexts and should instead focus	

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law and capable institutions		on issues requiring global governance and cooperation	
Fostering peaceful and inclusive societies	16.1 By 2030 reduce levels of violence and related death rate by x%		
	16.2 By 2030 end abuse, exploitation and violence against children		
	16.3 By 2030 reduce illicit financial flows by x% and reduce money laundering and all forms of organized crime including human trafficking and illicit trade in arms, drugs and wildlife	Recommend inclusion	
	16.4 By 2030 increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, taking into consideration the interests of present and future generations		
	16.5 By 2020 build necessary capacities of sub-national and local governments for fostering peaceful and inclusive societies		
	16.6 Forge unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and international levels		
	16.7 By 2020 provide information and education on a culture of non-violence		
	16.8 Strengthen mechanisms for formal and non-formal dispute resolution at all levels		
	16.9 Reduce the number of internally displaced persons and refugees		
	16.10 Enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary		
		MoI for this target needs to include support for the economic, social and institutional recovery of LDCs affected by conflict	
Rule of law, effective and capable institutions	16.11 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels		
	16.12 By 2030 provide equal access for all to independent, effective, and responsive justice systems that respect due process rights and equal access to legal aid		
	16.13 By 2020 provide legal identity for all, including birth registrations		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	16.14 By 2020 improve public access to information and government data, including on public finance management, public procurement and on the implementation of national development plans		
	16.15 By 2030 ensure that all laws are publicized and accessible to all		
	16.16 By 2030 establish and implement effective regimes to decrease and provide accountability for corruption and bribery in all its forms and at all levels		
	16.17 Promote freedom of media, association and speech		
17. Strengthen and enhance the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development		Recommend reformulating the goal: “Strengthen global partnership for sustainable development to ensure the right to development”	
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	17.1 Develop and implement effective and targeted capacity building programmes in developing countries in support of national plans implementing sustainable development		
	17.2 Realize timely implementation of duty-free quota-free market access, on a lasting basis for all least developed countries in accordance with World Trade Organization decisions and the Istanbul Programme of Action	Strongly support but rephrase to read: "Fully and timely implement WTO and IPoA commitments to duty-free quota-free access on a lasting basis for all LDC products, with simplified rules of origin and dismantling all non-tariff and para-tariff barriers"	
	17.3 Developed countries implement full ODA commitments to provide 0.7% of GNI in ODA to developing countries of which 0.15-0.20% to least developed countries on an agreed timetable based on internationally agreed principles	Strongly support inclusion with revised wording making specific mention of the need for ODA to be predictable, sustainable and provided in the form of direct budgetary support. The timeframe should be specified to indicate the need for immediate action. MoI should address the requirement for donors to provide timely information in a transparent manner on annual commitments and disbursements.	See comments in Section 4.3 on finance for development

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	17.4 Direct ODA and encourage financial flows to states where the need is greatest, in particular African countries, LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and vulnerable states	Strongly support inclusion but with revised wording indicating that donors should commit to allocate 50% of all ODA to LDCs	See comments in Section 4.3 under finance for development
	17.5 Ensure that adequate policy space is given to developing countries by the international organizations to enable developing countries to establish and implement their policies for poverty reduction and sustainable development		
	17.6 Support broad-based multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society, the private sector, and multiple levels of government, to mobilize knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support achievement of sustainable development goals, particularly in developing countries		
2. End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture	17.7 Reduce distortions in international trade, including phasing out all forms of agricultural export subsidies as soon as possible in line with the objective set out in by the WTO Ministers in the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration	Strongly support inclusion	
	17.8 Improve regulation with strengthened implementation of financial institutions and financial markets, including food commodity markets, to ensure global financial stability and to help dampen food price volatility		
	17.9 Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology development, institutions and capacity building in developing countries to enhance agricultural productive capacity, particularly in countries that are net food importers	A major priority for LDCs. Recommend inclusion, with an emphasis on substantial investment in rural infrastructure, infrastructure for improved agricultural productivity, agronomic science research and development, and technological and scientific research capacity-building,	Limited research and development capacity constrains progress in developing the agricultural sector in LDCs and perpetuates dependence on external sources of support and expertise. Capacity support should therefore focus on building institutions and technical expertise in LDCs.
		Recommend an additional MoI target on support to LDCs to establish or strengthen safety nets such as access to agricultural finance, insurance and other risk-mitigation tools	Given the high level of vulnerability of small agricultural producers to crises and risk, such safety nets are essential to sustainably reducing rural poverty in LDCs
3. Attain healthy life for all at all ages	17.10 Strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries who have ratified the Convention and urge countries that have not		

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	ratified to ratify and implement it		
	17.11 Support research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries	Recommend inclusion	
	17.12 In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential medicines in developing countries, and support developing countries' use of TRIPS flexibilities		
	17.13 Increase by 2030 the recruitment, development and training and retention of the health workforce by x% and teachers by y% in developing countries, especially in LDCs		
	17.14 Increase the capacity for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health crises		
4. Provide equitable and inclusive quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all	17.15 By 2020 expand by x% globally the number of scholarships for students from developing countries to enrol in higher education programmes in developed countries and other developing countries, with a particular focus on science, engineering, health, economics, finance, management and sustainable development	Recommend inclusion with specific and ambitious targets for students from LDCs that go beyond scholarships to include exchange programme, joint research and access to digital libraries	LDCs face the greatest deficit of trained professionals of any group of countries. In addition, very few LDCs are able to reduce that deficit in-country, given a lack of high quality institutions of higher learning. LDCs should therefore receive priority in the financing and allocation of scholarships for students from developing countries. However, support to international scholarships should not be seen as a substitute for support to building the education sector, including the tertiary sector, in LDCs.
		Recommend inclusion of an additional MoI: "Provide enhanced financial and technical support for LDCs to implement their national education plans and programmes with special emphasis on educational infrastructure building, including modern facilities and equipment and qualified teachers."	
5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere	17.16 By 2030, achieve universal access to ICT for all women and men, including as a means of promoting women's empowerment		
	17.17 Increase financial resources and services across all sectors to achieve gender equality, empowerment of women, and the realization and enjoyment of women's and girls' human rights	Recommend inclusion	MoI should emphasize women's access to microfinance, which has proven to make an important contribution to poverty reduction, security and resilience at household levels as well as women's empowerment.

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
		Recommend additional MoI related to employment opportunities for women	
6. Secure water and sanitation for all for a sustainable world	17.18 By 2030, expand international cooperation and support in water and sanitation related technologies, including water harvesting technologies and wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies		
7. Ensure access to affordable, sustainable and reliable modern energy services for all	17.19 Enhance international cooperation to facilitate developing countries' access to clean energy technologies, including through appropriate partnerships	Recommend inclusion, stipulating support to LDCs "on a preferential basis"	
	17.20 Encourage public and private sector investment, in particular public-private partnerships, in energy infrastructure and cleaner energy technologies	Recommend inclusion with reference to enhanced financial support to LDCs	
8. Promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all	17.21 Enhance global macroeconomic policy coordination and increase policy coherence in support of sustainable development		
	17.22 Promote an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, including complying with the mandate for agriculture, services and non-agricultural products of the WTO Doha Round and implementing the outcomes of the WTO Bali Declaration	Recommend inclusion with clearly stated target and date and reference to elimination of harmful subsidies	See justification on trade targets in main body of paper.
	17.23 Ensure a speedy conclusion of an ambitious, balanced, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda of multilateral trade negotiations		
	17.24 Improve market access for agricultural, fisheries and industrial exports of developing countries, in particular African countries, Least Developed Countries, LLDCs and SIDS, with a view to increasing their share of exports in global exports by 2020	Rephrase as follows: "…with a view to helping them reach the level of merchandise exports index of other developing countries", or alternatively "with a view to doubling their share by 2020 and increasing by 300% by 2030"	The IPoA includes a target of doubling LDCs' share of global exports by 2020; whatever target is agreed here should be at least as ambitious for 2020 and more ambitious by 2030.
	17.25 Increase trade-related capacity-building assistance to developing countries, including support for building their capacity to meet product regulations and standards, and enhance Aid for Trade initiatives including through the "Enhanced Integrated Framework"	Rephrase as follows: "Increase trade-related capacity-building assistance, by providing at least 50% of the total Aid for Trade disbursement to LDCs, and significantly enhancing resource allocation for the "Enhanced Integrated	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
		Framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs"	
	17.26 Promote regional and international collaboration on and access to science, technology, innovation research, and knowledge sharing, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	Recommend inclusion, specifying that “advanced developing countries will provide enhanced, quantifiable, need-specific support to LDCs in various areas under a transformative framework”.	
	17.27 Mobilize additional international financial resources for development from multiple sources	Critical issue for LDCs but target needs to be more explicit. Text should include the following: “Adopt, expand and implement dedicated investment promotion regimes for LDCs (as already agreed in the IPoA and UNGA resolution 68/224)” and “Explore new and additional long-term innovative sources of finance and strengthen and scale up existing ones; and earmark at least 50% of such financing for LDCs”	See comments in main body of paper.
	17.28 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization of developing countries, providing international support to improving tax collection, tax and natural resource revenue transparency	MoI should include support to LDCs to develop measures to increase domestic resource mobilization	
	17.29 Facilitate investments in developing countries in infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, water supply and treatment, and ICT	High priority for LDCs, recommend inclusion. Indicators should be included to track progress of LDCs towards achieving their IPoA targets of: a) reaching the level of high-income developing countries in combined rail and paved road mileage and sea and air networks; b) increasing access to telecommunications services including cellular phones; and c) providing 100% of the population with broadband connectivity. MoI should include establishment of an investment regime for LDCs to foster FDI for infrastructure development	
	17.30 By 2030 countries progressively introduce broader measures of progress beyond GDP into national accounting, with supportive statistical capacity building in developing countries		GDP has proven an incomplete and inaccurate measure of development progress in LDCs, for example the experience of many countries with rapid but jobless and environmentally

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
			damaging GDP growth through foreign investment in commodity extraction. LDCs should consider supporting this target.
9. Promote sustainable industrialization	17.31 Promote transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, including through the possible implementation of a UN global technology facilitation mechanism, and encourage the full use of TRIPs flexibilities	Recommend inclusion	
	17.32 Fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI Capacity Building Mechanism for LDCs	Recommend inclusion, with a target date of 2020 in line with UNGA Resolution 68/224	
	17.33 Build science, technology and innovation capacity in developing countries, including to undertake technology assessment and research, development and adaptation of clean and environmentally sound technologies		
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	17.34 By 2030 reduce to 5% or below the transaction costs of migrants' remittances, including regulatory and administrative costs	Recommend inclusion	This is a critical issue for LDCs, and needs a more ambitious target date than 2030. Remittances have averaged more than 4% of GDP per year in LDCs over the past decade, which is three times higher than for other developing countries and consistently higher than FDI. In several countries including Lesotho, Haiti, Nepal and Samoa, the figure is above 20% of GDP. During the global financial crisis starting in 2008, remittances to LDCs increased sharply, providing a critically needed cushion against the shock, during a period when other sources of external finance, including ODA was dropping[22].
	17.35 Enhance global cooperation to facilitate orderly, safe, responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and managed migration policies that facilitate migrants' contribution to sustainable development	Recommend inclusion	See comments at 8.15 above

[22] UNCTAD. 2012. The Least Developed Countries Report 2012. Harnessing remittances and diaspora knowledge to build productive capacities. Geneva: United Nations. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2012_en.pdf.

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	17.36 By 2020, substantially strengthen capacities for data collection and statistical analysis with a focus on generating timely and high-quality data disaggregated, as appropriate, by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and rural/urban location	A high priority need for LDCs; recommend inclusion	
11. Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements	17.37 Provide financial and technical support to least developed countries to build urban infrastructure including communications, sewerage, waste management, recycling and other basic services	Recommend inclusion; repeats commitments in IPoA. MoI under this Goal should also provide financial and technical assistance and technology transfer to LDCs for low-cost construction using local contents and materials, as called for in the IPoA	
12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	17.38 Enhance international cooperation with developed countries taking the lead in implementing sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through strengthening developing countries' scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	Recommend inclusion as it reflects the differential consumption and production patterns and responsibilities of industrialized and developing countries	
	17.39 Establish and effectively implement a multilateral code of conduct for multinational corporations to secure social and environmental responsibility and accountability		
13. Promote actions at all levels to address climate change	17.40 Operationalize the Green Climate Fund as soon as possible	Recommend inclusion	
14. Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas	17.41 Increase scientific knowledge, and develop infrastructure and capacities to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular of SIDS and LDCs	Recommend inclusion with reference also to financial investment	
15. Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss			
16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions	17.42 All countries should continue to act within the provisions of existing relevant international agreements		
	17.43 Undertake regular monitoring and reporting of	Requires further detailed discussion	

Zero draft Goals (June)	Zero draft Targets (2 June)	Summary of recommendations to the OWG from the LDC Group	Comments
	progress on SDGs within a shared accountability framework, including means of implementation, the global partnership among Member States and multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships		
	17.44 Promote strong international institutions, including conclusion of reforms for increasing effective and democratic participation of developing countries in international financial institutions		Repeats verbatim target 10.9; see recommendations there
	17.45 Cooperate globally to reduce substantially international tax evasion and avoidance	Recommend insertion with inclusion of a final clause “including addressing illicit capital flows and eliminating safe havens”, which is in line with IPoA commitments	

5. Recommendations on Means of Implementation and governance framework

Given their extensive experience with development cooperation, LDCs have a well-informed understanding of the resources and capacities they will require to implement the SDGS, as well as how those resources and capacities can be delivered and deployed most effectively. The SDGs must aim for a transformation, not only in their approach to development, but also in their approach to international cooperation. Implementation of the SDGs must be truly country-led and respect national strategic priorities. For LDCs, productive capacity building for structural transformation has been identified as the necessary route to reducing poverty and improving social conditions. MoI must be aligned in that strategic direction. A comprehensive MoI "package" should include, in addition to financial and technical support, the following elements

5.1 International cooperation

Policy coherence for development is crucial. For example, unreasonable restrictions on labor migration and non-tariff trade barriers impede progress by LDCs on many targets. Each country should have responsibility for addressing aspects of their policy framework that could impede the ability of other countries to achieve globally agreed targets under the SDGs.

Technology dissemination and transfer must be a strong component of international cooperation. In this and other matters, South-South cooperation should be emphasized.

The voice and representation of LDCs in international institutions must increase; specific recommendations on targets for this have been made in Section 4 and Table 1.

5.2 Monitoring and data management

The SDGs can only have an impact if progress on their achievement can be tracked and the information made available to and used by stakeholders. The SDGs must truly be accompanied by a data revolution. Some elements of that revolution that would make sense from an LDC point of view include:

- using existing data sets (international, governmental, community, non-governmental) as the basis for setting targets and identifying indicators whenever possible;
- building data collection and management capacity incrementally, starting with highest priority data needs for national governments and other direct stakeholders in order to incentivize action and maximize its value;
- decentralizing data collection and putting it in the hands of those who are most affected by the data being collected: an important lesson emerging from the monitoring framework for the MDGs and IPoA is that you cannot have good data if the stakeholders at the local level are not the ones collecting it;
- making the data as useful as possible through disaggregation, not only by gender and income level, but also by locality and where possible by caste or similar social grouping.

5.3 National implementation frameworks

It took considerable time for countries to get on board with the MDGs and to align them to national development policies and frameworks. MoI should support countries to insert the SDGs into existing frameworks, for example those aligned to the IPoA in LDCs.

5.4 Mutual accountability framework

Implementing the SDGs will represent a significant commitment by LDCs to sustainable development. As the LDC Group has repeatedly emphasized, the LDCs will require new and

strengthened partnerships with more developed countries, including South-South partnerships with higher income developing countries, and with international organizations. Unlike the MDGs, all countries have a stake in, and will benefit from the successful achievement of, the SDGs. In that sense, the SDGs will usher in a new era of global cooperation, in which countries are not divided between donor and recipient countries but instead united in a shared global project. Solidarity will need to replace the unbalanced relationships that have existed between countries over the past forty years. In its statements to the OWG, the LDC Group has articulated a few key ingredients to effective mutual accountability frameworks including:

- LDCs will have strengthened and effective voice and participation in international decision-making, rule-making and standard and norm-setting processes in all areas affecting their development;
- Donor countries will provide LDCs with timely information in a transparent manner on annual commitments and disbursements of their development assistance.

LDCs and development partners should begin a dialogue as soon as possible to define ways of working together to achieve a common global vision of development.

Key documents consulted

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UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Outcome documents including:

- Introduction and proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post-2015 development agenda (“zero draft” of 2 June 2014)
- “Chapeau” (2 June 2014)
- Working document for 5-9 session of the Open Working Group
- Focus Areas document for the 31 March-4 April session of the Open Working Group

World Bank Indicators. http://data.worldbank.org.