



UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals - Tenth Session - April 2, 2014

Statement by the Mining Working Group, Women's Major Group, Indigenous Peoples Major Group, Children and Youth Major Group, and NGO Major Group.

Focus area 6. Water and Sanitation

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

I speak on behalf of the NGO Mining Working Group and the Women's, Indigenous Peoples, Children and Youth, and NGO Major Groups.

We commend the affirmation of the human right to water and sanitation, and consideration of the whole water cycle. Yesterday member states showed wide acclamation for the critical and cross cutting nature of this focus area, and its importance in carrying on where sanitation has fallen off track under the MDGs with devastating impacts. We commend the 57 member states who signed the World Water Day Declaration for an SDG on Water and Sanitation, which is critical for our planet and future generations.

The full realization of the human right to sanitation and water is only met when it is available, accessible, affordable, safe and acceptable.

It is imperative to address pollution, protection and restoration of water-linked ecosystems, and the root causes of the current problems.

To these ends, we suggest the following targets, which build on points A, B, C, D, E, F, H, and I:

1. A zero target on pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, with full legal and financial accountability and remedy for transgressions.
 2. A zero target on harm done by extractive industry in vital watershed areas where limited water supplies are needed by local communities, local farmers, indigenous peoples, and fishing communities for survival.
 3. A zero target on freshwater extraction beyond sustainable supply.
 4. A zero target on mortality due to lack of safe water and hygiene.
 5. A zero target on open defecation.
1. Promote 100% access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and suitable sanitation for all, including menstrual hygiene (which requires clean materials, soap, water, information and privacy so that women and girls can manage their menstrual cycle with dignity and without discomfort or fear), in schools, homes, workplaces, etc.
 2. Promote 100% wastewater treatment and improve water use efficiency.
 3. Promote the protection and restoration of watersheds and ecosystems and ensure minimum flows needed to facilitate and maintain valuable ecosystem services.
 4. Promote effective water governance including fully informed and inclusive local democratic management and public financing as well as trans-boundary cooperation.

Thank you very much.

Grove Harris _ Representative to the United Nations for the Temple of Understanding