



Anglican Communion Office  
*at the United Nations*

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA-** by Hannah Hussamy

Over the weeks of July 20-24 and July 27-31, member states, major groups, and other civil society stakeholders participated in negotiations and arrived at a consensus with respect to the language and content of the post- 2015 development agenda and its sustainable development goals (SDG's), which act as the driving force of the document. As stated in the final outcome document, the SDG's "seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental" ("Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", p. 2). The president of the agenda appointed two co-facilitators to spearhead the informal intergovernmental meetings that allowed for the development of the agenda, which will be launched at a Summit in September 2015.

During the negotiations that took place on the morning of July 28<sup>th</sup>, the representatives considered proposed revisions to the targets of the document contained in chapter two and its adjoined annexes. The co-facilitator asked that delegates speak to their overall concerns about proposed revisions set forth in prior meetings, particularly those that could be accepted and those that simply could not. Several delegates were not in favor of re-opening the SDG's so as not to disrupt the progress made in prior meetings.

There were delegates that considered the chapter to be clear as it stood and expressed concern that extensive changes would prevent the delegation from arriving at a consensus by July 31<sup>st</sup>. However, other representatives did propose amendments. For example, a thought- provoking discussion stemmed from Zambia's appeal to member states to include additional targets that had been proposed by Landlocked and Developing Countries (LLDC's), especially one that would promote the trading capacity of LLDC's. Although some member states reaffirmed their position to leave these targets as they stood, others expressed the importance of including LLDC's proposals in the new document.

During the late morning, John Pullinger, chairman of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), joined the assembly via webcam to discuss the progress of the UNSC's expert group on sustainable development, which was created in March in order to develop a global framework for the goals and targets of the 2015 agenda. According to Pullinger, the framework will be presented for review and adoption in March 2016. He recognized that monitoring the SDG's will be a challenge for national statistical systems, and applauded the provisions within the agenda that address the importance of improving statistical efficiency worldwide.

Near the end of their July 28 meeting, several representatives of Latin American countries expressed their desire that the outcome document express specific challenges experienced by middle-income countries. Many of these delegates also requested that the document reference economic and familial diversity worldwide with greater frequency.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the delegation reviewed the methods of implementation (MOI's) as well as chapter 4, which addresses future follow-up and review of the agenda. Several delegates articulated that the MOI's are an integral element of the document, as they create a basis for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Indeed, the MOI's were retained in the final document. With respect to chapter 4, the follow up and review of the agenda, delegates repeatedly expressed the essential nature of follow-up and review as key contributors to the agenda's success as a whole. However, representatives held many differing opinions with respect to the roles of the UN, the state, and civil society as regulators and critics of the implementation of the sustainable development goals worldwide.

After many hours of hard work on the part of the delegation, the co-facilitators, and many other contributors, participants agreed upon a finalized text for adoption on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The text became available on the UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website on August 1<sup>st</sup> (link attached below).

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891TRANSFORMING%20OUR%20WORLD.pdf>