



POST-2015 DECLARATION WWF PROPOSED ELEMENTS

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WWF calls for an ambitious and visionary Declaration to set the tone for the next fifteen years of global sustainable development. WWF welcomes the Co-Facilitators “Elements paper” for the Declaration. Building on previous Declarations, WWF proposes the following fundamental commitments be included as essential parts of the post-2015 Declaration that Member States will adopt in September 2015.

Poverty eradication and sustainable development at the centre of the agenda

Poverty eradication is only achievable if sustainable development is at the core of the post-2015 agenda. In this regard WWF calls for the Declaration to state that the post-2015 agenda will **“reinforce the international community’s commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development”** and recognise **“the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development.”** (A/68/L.4, *Outcome Document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards the Millennium Development Goals*, para 19, 1 October 2013).

Integration

The **integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development is essential** if all countries are to achieve prosperity, lasting poverty eradication and a healthy environment. The Declaration should call for the implementation of policies and actions that act on this interdependence. Member States should commit to **“promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development”** (*The Future We Want*, para 76, 19 June 2012) and recognize **“their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.”** (*The Future We Want*, para 3, 19 June 2012). In particular, Member States should highlight environmental protection as **“an integral part of the development process”** as it **“cannot be considered in isolation from it.”** (*The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, principle 4, 1992). The Declaration should also recognize the **principle of policy coherence** to ensure that achieving targets in one area does not undermine success in another.

Ecosystems support all life

A healthy environment and its equitable governance enable sustainable economic development and poverty eradication. The post-2015 Declaration should call for a holistic approach **“which will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem.”** (*The Future We Want*, para 40, 19 June 2012). It should also call for **development planning** to fully account for the benefits of ecosystems and the costs of their loss by reaffirming the commitment to promote **“integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports inter alia economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.”** (*The Future We Want*, para 4, 19 June 2012). Member States should reaffirm their commitment to **“co-operate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would**

lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation.” (*The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, principle 12, 1992).

The Declaration should emphasize the need for ambitious action on **climate change**, underscoring that **“the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions;”** and **“holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C, or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”**, and that **“the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.”** (*Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*, para 8, 19 July 2014).

Beyond GDP, decoupling economic growth from environment degradation

Sustainable economic development should be understood as a means to eradicate poverty, create well-being for all, and benefit future generations while safeguarding ecosystem services and ecological systems. Metrics that go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) and acknowledge the value of natural resources and social wellbeing are needed to measure human progress. WWF urges Member States to commit to absolute decoupling of **economic growth from environmental degradation** (*Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*, target 8.4, 19 July 2014) and for measures of **development beyond GDP** (*Resilient People Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing*, para 17, 30 January 2012).

Universality and Equality

We agree that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda should be **universal** in nature, with all countries committing to working at national level and collectively to achieve the global goals. Taking into account national differences and capacities, national commitments must together add up to a coherent global impact. WWF calls for the Declaration to reiterate the Member States’ commitment **“to act together, united by a common determination to save our planet, promote human development and achieve universal prosperity and peace”** (A/CONF.199/20, *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development*, para 35, 4 September 2002).

Equality, equity and respect for human rights -- a basis of sustainable development and peaceful societies -- should be central principles. Inequality, including inequitable access to natural resources and related benefits, weakens development benefits and increases social and economic costs. WWF calls for Member States to reiterate that all countries have a **“collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.”** (A/RES/55/2, *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, para 2, 18 September 2000). Equitable access to technology and scientific knowledge is an important prerequisite for states’ ability to fulfil the post-2015 goals and targets.

Follow-up and review mechanism

A follow-up and review mechanism should be a central element of the post-2015 Declaration. WWF calls for Member States to commit to a robust, participative, inclusive and transparent framework for follow-up and review at all levels that will ensure **“appropriate accountability to Member States [...] to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development”** (United Nations, *The Future We Want*, para 78, 19 June 2012). WWF believes that monitoring, review, data collection, access to information, and transparency are all ways to ensure that citizens participate, contribute, and are accountable to the new sustainable development agenda’s success, and should be included in the Declaration.