

**Stakeholders Statement**

**2nd Meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators**

**Bangkok, 26 October, 2015**

**Global Indicators under Goals 1 and 2 - End Poverty and hunger**

Madame Chair,

To aid the work of this expert group and the work of National Statistical Commissions we would like to provide some comments on indicators pertaining to Goal 1 and 2.

This morning members rightfully raised questions about the proposed measurement of poverty in 1.1. and the proposition to measure poverty at the new World Bank rate of \$1.90 per day. The MDGs showed us that poverty measurements can be manipulated to mask poverty, something we ask you to be very mindful of as you complete this work which has the potential to impact on billions of people.

When the World Bank shifted its measurement from 1.02 ppp in 1985 to 1.08 in 1993 and then again in 2008 to 1.25, 753 million people were miraculously lifted out of poverty. The shift allowed systemic issues (like structural adjustment and austerity measures imposed by global financial institutions) that produce poverty - to be disguised. The 15 countries selected by the World Bank to direct the calculation have the lowest poverty threshold – a national decision affecting billions of the world's poor.

I remind you that no developed country measures poverty at less than \$10 per day.

While disaggregation was not discussed today, I also remind you that the failure to measure poverty at the community or intra-household levels meant the MDGs could not address the depth or reality of poverty.

We recall the importance throughout the targets to disaggregate data by all social and economic groups, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location.

We support members who have drawn attention to the critical need for a multi-dimensional poverty index that can be broken down by dimensions and populations. The MPI should be a priority indicator in the framework to provide a synthesis of overall performance in poverty eradication.

Madame Chair, Targets 1.4, 2.3, and 5.a address secure land rights as foundational to the Agenda. Secure land rights are increasingly recognised as one of the most important indicator for poverty and hunger. We acknowledge the proposed indicator of FAO, UN Women and others. However, we are concerned that the proposed indicator 1.4.2 falls short on the principle of leaving no one behind. In particular, the reference to "agricultural land" should include lands of indigenous peoples' and local

communities', and should explicitly cover both "individual and collective/customary land tenure systems" regardless of state's recognition. We therefore endorse the following indicator under 1.4, supported by several organisations, including UN Agencies, the Global Donor Platform, and UK: "Percentage of women, men, indigenous peoples, local communities, small-scale producers with secure rights to land (individual and collective tenure), property, and natural resources, measured by a. percentage with legally documented or recognized evidence of tenure, and b. percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected".

The recommended indicator is feasible, and data gaps can be addressed through household surveys and geo-spatial data collection among others.

Some final concern under Goal 2. indicators on Target 2.2. should include other social groups (older people, adolescents, pregnant women among others). On Target 2.5.1 we support exploring UNEP's alternative indicator and call for further consultation on sustainable land practices clusters, including agroecology. On 2.a. and 2.ab, we suggest to include measurement of the improved livelihoods of all women, men, indigenous peoples, small-scale producers and local communities, as measurement of the quality of investments.\*

Thank you.