The online consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the Open Working Group (OWG) Outcome Document was hosted by the Rio+Centre. The consultation aimed to raise awareness of the Post-2015 agenda and its content among civil society in Brazil; to gather feedback from civil society in Brazil on the proposed SDGs; to foster dialogue and transparency and forge connections between the Rio+Centre and stakeholders in the SDGs.

The online consultation took place over two weeks on the RioDialgues online platform, moderated by the Rio+Centre’s team with support from UNDP New York. The online forum was visited by more than 700 individuals over the course of the two-week discussion period, and the Portuguese translation of the Outcome Document was downloaded more than 350 times. 177 comments on the draft SDGs were posted by more than 40 individuals, ranging from university students to members of the private sector and representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and academia. Below are some of the key messages emanating from the consultation.

Key Messages from the Consultation:

- The OWG document was seen as progress by participants, but it is necessary to go further. The draft proposes an excessive number of goals (with occasional contradictions); a lack of hierarchy, indicators, aims, and defined deadlines (intermediary deadlines are perceived as important). Should Sustainable Development not be the top priority?

- The lack of clear definitions impairs understanding of the goals. Extreme poverty, for example, is a term that needs to be revised in order to be adapted to international particularities.
Sustained Economic Development is a controversial topic and it includes incongruities (e.g. the clash between the current model of growth versus sustainability, inclusion, and equity). It should be interconnected with other objectives (e.g.: fighting hunger should be connected with waste reduction). Would Sustainable Economic Development not be a more appropriate construction?

The SDGs should include an institutional dimension (either transversal or parallel to the three existing dimensions).

The use of GDP as a metric for measuring development is not satisfactory. Furthermore, GDP does not measure the quality of growth.

“Means of Implementation” are relevant for civil society. Accountability, general participation, and interrelationship with different spheres of influence (geographical, political, social, demographic, and productive) are important. National and subnational legal frameworks are necessary and should include aspects that allow participation among public, private, and non-governmental actors - emphasizing local actions.

Climate Change deserves more emphasis in the text, via more immediate and tangible proposals, and increased interrelationship with other objectives. Aspects such as durability and eco-efficiency, which are important for sustainability, are not considered in the text.

Drugs (and trafficking); health; transportation; food security; diverse forms of violence; and humanitarian situations have not been tackled adequately in the text. The promotion of peace and stability is fundamental for fighting poverty.

It is important to ensure that the SDGs are aligned with already existing international commitments, and that they receive broad support from international bodies beyond the UN.

It is important to establish a trustworthy and regularly updated database on the topics involved, providing disaggregated data.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND NUMBER OF POSTS

WEEK 1:

- What is your opinion of the OWG proposal for the SDGs? – 34 posts
- What is missing in the current SDG proposal? Please highlight sections in the text and try to present a proposal in your own words, where possible. – 31 posts
- One of the key aspects of Sustainable Development is that it considers social, environmental and economic aspects in an integrated manner. How do you analyze the balance of these aspects in the OWG’s proposed approach? – 2 posts

WEEK 2:

- Please share your comments on the specific goals and targets proposed. – 85 posts
- What is your definition of key concepts, such as extreme poverty, sustainable economic development, etc.? – 9 posts
- How do you envision the implementation phase of the SDGs and the role of civil society? – 13 posts
- Any other comments on the proposed SDGs? – 3 posts

VISITS (PER DAY)

Data source: Google Analytics
The World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre)

One of the most important legacies of the Conference was the launching, during the High-Level Segment of the Conference, of the “World Centre for Sustainable Development - RIO+”. Established on June 24th, 2013, the RIO+ Centre works to reaffirm and make actionable the inextricable link between social, economic and environmental policies for the achievement of sustainable development and human well-being.