

Mr Co-Chairs,

1 On behalf of the troika partnership of Cyprus, United Arab Emirates and Singapore, I would like to thank you for giving me the floor. I am sure that there would be interest in our short statement on ‘human rights, the right to development and global governance’ in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given the diverse makeup of the troika.

2 On ‘human rights and the right to development’, the troika agrees with the TST brief that a stand alone SDG on human rights may not be called for, given it is a cross cutting issue. As such, a rights based approach can serve as a guiding principle in our deliberations on the possible SDGs, as well as the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

3 In this context, the troika is of the view that the OWG should adopt a holistic attitude towards the rights based approach. A coherent approach towards a single framework and set of goals while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities should also promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all. We should examine this issue in relation to topics, like education, at every possible angle in order to strike a balance between the ideal and the practical.

4 Thank you.

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