



10th Session of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

New York, 31st March 2014

Statement by ITALY, SPAIN and TURKEY

CLUSTER 1 : Poverty eradication/Promote Equality

- We appreciate that the first overarching cluster is on poverty and its interrelation with equality. All over the world, even in the wealthiest of nations, poverty remains a dramatic problem. Poverty eradication must be the first priority when we search for policies to revert the trends of unequal globalization and unsustainable development. We must define a comprehensive framework for tackling poverty, environmental unsustainability, security threats and human rights abuses all over the world.
- To eradicate poverty “leaving no one behind” we need a multidimensional approach capable to address not only the symptoms of poverty, but also its underlying causes, including systemic and institutional issues. Poverty is a product of structural imbalances in development processes. For part of the population, such imbalances result in limiting the right "to live in dignity and take an active part in society". A poverty focus area should incorporate the concept of well being and address all causes and structural imbalances leading to poverty. A life worth living, including the opportunity to achieve what an individual considers relevant and to widen her or his set of options, embraces labour skills, environment, health, education, housing, security, income, working conditions, self-respect and a role in decision-making. Several dimensions of well-being strongly depend on public institutions performing essential tasks and providing public goods and services. Poverty therefore is to be measured by promoting a poverty multi-dimensional index, taking into account all its social and environmental components rather than limiting it to its economic and income indicators. To this end an extended work on statistics is paramount.
- Eradication of poverty requires addressing inequalities and promoting equitable development. The promotion of fair sharing of benefits of economic growth is crucial for both poverty eradication as well as social dignity. One of the major challenges today is the persistence of severe inequalities at global, regional and national levels and the risk and vulnerability of millions of people to fall back again into poverty. The world is more unequal today than when the MDGs were adopted and inequality within each country is jeopardizing economic growth and poverty reduction. Inequalities threaten our ability to pursue fair and sustainable development and undermine the human capabilities necessary for achieving a good life. They hamper progress in education, health and

nutrition and limit opportunities and access to economic, social and political life. Extreme inequalities weaken democratic life, threaten social cohesion and social stability. Sustainable development cannot be achieved while ignoring extreme disparities. It is therefore important to tackle the different dimensions of inequalities with an integrated and transformative approach addressing their economic, social, political, cultural and territorial causes, and providing strengthened and accessible social protection services.

- In this context we must pay special attention to addressing the structural causes of gender inequality, such as the pandemic of violence against women, unpaid care work, limited control over assets and property, and unequal participation in private and public decision-making. Ensuring women's rights and recognizing their role on "productive and care economy" is essential, not only to achieve gender equality but also to transform gender relations in order to remove the main constraints to development.
- Empowering the human capital should be clearly emphasized under this cluster so that the interlinkages between employment, education, health, and poverty could be covered.
- The new framework should adopt a human rights approach focussed on strengthening capacities and facilitating access to resources, rights, goods and services for the poor. A goal on poverty eradication should clearly address all aspects of human well-being and not being limited to the eradication of extreme economic poverty. From this perspective, the document is an important starting point but it proposes a BAU vision of economic growth and industrialization as fundamental drivers for development. This leads to some contradictions between the areas, and to the difficulties in mutually linking all the Focus Areas. If we want to "leave no one behind" we must change and build a coherent vision where the key pillars of poverty eradication, fighting social exclusion and inequalities and human rights are mainstreamed along the different clusters.