



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

BEFORE
The SDGs OWG 10

UN Headquarters - New York

31 March – 4 April 2014

Allow to begin by stating that the State of Qatar aligns itself with the statement delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China. Furthermore we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the co-chairs for their role in leading the discussions of the SDGs Open Working Group, and in ensuring that the views of member states are appropriately reflected in the documents.

We commend all efforts made in drafting the current proposed focus areas and clusters, and we think this is a good basis for further discussion and elaboration. In terms of methodology, we would like to make the following observations on the inter-linkages and on the inclusion of family policy and culture:

To start, due consideration should be given to family policies as an instrument for achieving sustainable and comprehensive development.

The United Nations Secretary General noted in his recent report (A/69/61-E/2014/4), that adding family policy to the Post-2015 Development Agenda would be a step forward and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

We believe that mainstreaming and placing emphasis on the role that family plays in achieving universal primary education, the empowerment of women, and, among other things, promoting gender equality, is fundamental to crafting a sound Post-2015 Development Agenda and will result in a positive outcome.

Designing and implementing family policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, intra-generational mobility, social integration and intergenerational solidarity have immeasurable importance and impact on development, and cannot be excluded or politicized in our discussions.

The second observation we would like to make is on the subject of culture.

The State of Qatar aligns itself with the Group of Friends on Culture and Development, and in this regard, we would like to emphasize that we will continue to highlight, along with the other member states of the Group of Friends, the importance of including cultural considerations in sustainable development and throughout the stages of the elaboration of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

We believe in the absolute necessity of mainstreaming culture in the SDGs, and the need to further elaborate on the inter-linkages between culture and other focus areas.

As demonstrated through the valuable contribution of culture to the achievement of the MDGs, culture is an essential component of human development. We must take a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development, which includes considerations for the importance of cultural diversity and national and local contexts.

At this stage we would like to seek your guidance on how to proceed and engage with each of the proposed clusters that would benefit from adding a cultural and family policy perspective.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to constructively engaging in with you throughout the process.