



Date: 5 May 2014

**Health and population dynamics
Education and life-long learning**
SI and MNE elements for 11th session of OWG SDGs

Focus area 3: Health and population dynamics

We continue our support for across government approach to health and for stand-alone goal on health issues.

We welcome your approach to the formulation of possible health goal, which focuses on maximizing healthy lives for all.

We welcome the inclusion of unfinished business of health-related MDGs into possible targets under this goal.

We welcome focus on universal health coverage, universal access to medicines and vaccines and inclusion of sexual and reproductive health in possible targets. We believe that universal access should ensure quality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health that will enable improvement in achieving unfinished business of MDGs.

We would like to draw special focus on non-communicable diseases, especially on the investments in prevention of risk factors and on the promotion of stronger connection between health and its environmental determinants/factors.

We wish to point out two additional topics which should be appropriately reflected in possible targets, namely the health and long-term care needs of ageing population and improvement of mental health.

In the context of proposed target on the elimination of abuse of narcotic drugs and substances we believe that the reduction of demand for illegal drugs could also be addressed (this issue could be also addressed under the goal on peaceful societies).

Focus Area 4: Education and life-long learning

We reiterate our position that education is a fundamental human right and remains one of the key challenges for development, as well as a precondition for the long term competitiveness and sustainability of all societies.

We welcome focus on promoting progressive access to education with special emphasis on equal rights for boys and girls. It is important that not only people with disabilities but also other vulnerable and marginalized groups would remain in focus of education SDG through inclusive education measures.

We welcome focus on life-long learning and education of adults. However, we believe that this element should be better reflected throughout the targets under this goal.

We welcome the reflection on the importance of vocational training and integrating relevant knowledge and skills in education curricula.

We support the inclusion of sustainable development education in education curricula. In this regard, equally important are also health education and human rights education. The latter is also an essential element for efficient overall protection and promotion of human rights. We would also support possible actions related to the promotion of culture`s dimension of sustainable development.