

STAKEHOLDER HEARINGS

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2: “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS”

STATEMENT OF JAVIER PINEDA

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Excellencies,

I'm Javier Pineda, from Chile and representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance, as member of the Youth Leadership Working Group.

In this opportunity I'd like to start with something we think is essential in the discussion on the Post-2015 Agenda: to learn from the MDGs' mistakes in order not to regret in 15 more years the failure of this strategy.

To have clear objectives, with indicators and monitoring actions is doubtlessly very important and represents a qualitative change from the MDGs. Nevertheless, this doesn't assure the fulfillment of SDGs, let alone guarantees people to have a plentiful and dignified life. Since poverty wasn't eradicated in the last 15 years, as the MDGs proposed, which new action are we proposing to eradicate it in the next 15 years?

This is a problem. One of the guiding questions of this panel spoke of including the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. Nevertheless, how do we reach the most marginalized and vulnerable people when we have a hegemonic development system maintained thanks to the exclusion and marginalization? Let's speak sincerely. While in events like this we speak of the importance of protecting Human Rights, the recommendations imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to a country in crisis are the opposite: they reduce social expenses – which assure Human Rights- because what is important for them is to pay the creditors, leaving aside the rights of the people.

While we speak of alliances with all stakeholders, including the multinational companies, we seem to forget that these companies are the main source of precarious work and labor flexibility in our countries, taking a great part of our resources. In a system based in accumulation and competition, there is a contradiction we cannot ignore: each dollar that businesspeople accumulate in their Forbes fortunes (many times in fiscal paradises) or misspend in yachts in the Mediterranean, is a dollar which is not used for protecting the Human Rights of our people. As it is called in economical jargon, opportunity cost.

If we speak of this Agenda not wanting to leave anyone behind, it is necessary to end the aberrant situation of inequality existing among and within our countries. We are not going to advance in development if 1%, 1% of the population (!) possesses over 30% of the world's wealth. If we want an alliance with all, including the private sector, this sector must be willing to lose its privileges. If

it has a compromise with development and Human Rights, it must be willing to pay dignified salaries, to support the Human Right of workers to form unions, to negotiate collectively and to exercise the right to strike. If they want to be socially responsible, it cannot be at the expense of tax exemptions. To not take serious care of inequality is the Chronicle of a death foretold, as Gabriel Garcia Marquez would say.

We are conscious that a Development Agenda will not solve all the problems of the world, because a document doesn't change reality: peoples change reality and build their history. Nevertheless this is a great opportunity. A great opportunity.

What do we propose? An Agenda which recognizes in its targets, goals and indicators the centrality of the Human Rights of the people, ultimately, which recognizes us as owners of our lives.

What should this translate into? In first place, to recognize our power over our body and the right we have on it, especially regarding our sexuality. Let's be pro-life: let's guarantee the right to decide to not die.

Let's grant the social and collective rights needed to develop in communitarian life. The right to education and work should not be granted because we want a qualified workforce but because education allows us to think and act in society to transform it, while work dignifies us as persons, and is the true source of wealth.

Recognizing what's mentioned before in the targets, goals and indicators, the SDGs have to be a roadmap which guides the action of our countries. For this, youth and civil society must be acknowledged as key actors; their participation in the implementation and monitoring of this agenda must be granted.

The message may sound too hard, but the reality of millions of people in the world is much harder than what I can express with these words.

Thank you.