

**SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN WORKING GROUP
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17-19 April 2013**

**Poverty Eradication
Key Notes on behalf of Croatia and Bulgaria**

Mr. Co-Chair,
Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to make this statement on behalf of Croatia and Bulgaria, two countries that share the membership in this Open Working Group.

Allow us first to associate ourselves with the expressions of appreciation that we have heard these days, towards dedicated work of our both co-Chairs, and yours support to this Group which is helping us to move forward in a constructive manner. We welcome the papers prepared by the UN Technical Support Team; they serve as a helpful source for shaping the focus of our discussions.

Eradication of poverty is a cornerstone of all past and present efforts of the international community to make a better and just world. It is rooted into the Millennium Declaration and embedded into the FWW, a document which mandated and overreaches today's framework for sustainable development of our planet beyond 2015.

Substantial progress has been made on the achievement of the targets related to the reduction of extreme poverty. The remained challenges of sustainable development and poverty eradication are strongly interlinked. They should be treated in a coherent way.

There is already a reasonable level of consensus among the wide range of key stakeholders that sustainable development goals should strongly complement poverty eradication efforts. Eradication of poverty, thus, should be mainstreamed in all relevant targets, indicators, policies and programmes since it is an overreaching idea and the overall objective of the sustainable development. This ambitious vision here is holistic and universal in its perspective. It highlights the fundamental needs of the most vulnerable people in all societies and fosters the human development.

The FWW has highlighted "the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels".

European Commission Communication *Decent Life for All: Ending Poverty and Giving the World a Sustainable Future* highlights strong links between poverty eradication and the achievement of universal goals related to improvements in people's living standards, setting out its views on a post 2015 overarching framework. Croatia and Bulgaria share these views.

There is less than 1,000 days for action to implement MDGs. From the aspect of poverty eradication and human development in general, around 1,3 billion people still live in extreme income poverty and large number of people continue to be exposed to severe shocks affecting their basic living standards.

Until the structure and the content of the SDGs start to crystallize, certain building blocks related to poverty eradication might be considered:

- There are numerous on-going thematic consultations between diverse range of stakeholders on national, regional and global level, with the objectives to identify possible building blocks for the elaboration of the SDGs and the Post-2015 agenda. This Group should carefully listen to the main messages of these consultations and needs to reflect and build on these messages in order to achieve a full inclusiveness for the outcome of its work.
- Eradication of poverty should have right-based approach and be supportive to the basic living standards and gender equality including the empowerment of women, ensuring long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability, managing and reducing risks and strengthening community resilience. We must turn from purely quantitative goals to reflect and address quality. The basic criteria should be established in order to give a framework to living standards under which no person fall. In our view, we should address these issues alongside peace and security, as basic preconditions for sustainability.
- In support of country led processes towards the eradication of poverty, political commitment, democratic, inclusive, accountable and effective governance should be fostered as a key supportive framework.
- Eradication of poverty needs a comprehensive approach; the multidimensional character of poverty should be recognised. The future goals within the new development framework must reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of underlying issues and interconnectedness towards the eradication of poverty in a complementary and synergistic way.
- The MDGs have succeeded in putting the eradication of poverty, primarily the extreme poverty and hunger, as the overarching objective of development assistance policies. The new framework needs to recognize the changes that have taken place in the world since the inception of the MDGs in 2000. This requires comprehensive and transformational changes in the reflections of the SDGs.
- The MDGs have served as a catalyst to encourage the governments and the development community to focus their support on human development and poverty eradication. The SDGs have a potential to strengthen international determination towards sustainable development. There is a wide support for continuing with a limited number of concrete, quantitative, time bound goals, targets and associated indicators. Furthermore, goals must be linked to practical actions and implementation strategies both on global and national levels, in order to put effectively irreversible eradication of poverty in the centre of our future considerations for sustainable development. Let's focus on that.

Thank You.