



## MAJOR GROUP OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### **Open Working Group 5: Intervention on Economic Inequality**

Monday, November 25, 2013

Inclusive Economic Growth is crucial in the eradication of poverty. Current economic models do not lead to an equal distribution of benefits among members of society. At the same time, globalization and changing global markets further complicate the challenges of making economic growth inclusive. The impact of the economic slowdown of 2008, still affects middle class families and emerging economies. The economic toll on young people have been unprecedented.

Member States must operationalize the concept of economic growth into one that promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns and promotes a broader notion of well-being and inclusiveness. New measurements such as the OECD Better Life Index and various happiness and well-being indices should be considered by members of the Open Working Group.

As representatives of children and youth, we are cognizant that the benefits of growth do not trickle down to all members of society. In the case of young people, we must consider the factors that impact their opportunities of being successful economic actors. Are young people receiving the basic skills required for the 21st century workplace? Do they even have access to education opportunities? Are young people being protected by legislation that promotes decent work? If we do not have answers to these questions, it is difficult to think about indicators that capture inclusiveness.

The current goals proposed in the Report of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP Report) on the creation of a global enabling environment have several shortcomings, particularly when it comes to gender, age, and accessibility. We propose the following targets when discussing inclusiveness:

In increasing young people's opportunities to be equal economic players:

- a. Increase access to universal primary education regardless of circumstances.
- b. Increase the number of young and adult women and men with the skills, including technical and vocational training.
- b. Eradication of all forms of child labour
- d. Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and technology communication services.