

**Statement by
Dr. Endah Murniningtyas
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the National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia
on behalf of China, Indonesia and Kazakhstan
at the Eighth Meeting of the OWG on SDGs
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**“PROMOTING EQUALITY, INCLUDING
SOCIAL EQUITY, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT”**

Mr. Co-chairs,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of China, Indonesia and Kazakhstan.

We align ourselves with the statement by the distinguished representative of Bolivia speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Co-chairs,

Our Troika believes that ensuring equality is a key part of fighting poverty and securing a sustainable future for all. We need to deliver inclusive growth in order to ensure the eradication of poverty and achieving a sustainable and equitable development.

Promoting equality is especially relevant now in order to rethink our approach to poverty eradication after witnessing widespread inequality around the world. Almost half of the world’s wealth is owned by the richest one per cent.

Income and wealth inequality have escalated beyond bounds in most countries. However, the inequality between countries and imbalance of global development that have grown considerably wider is a key concern and a priority that we need to tackle.

The persistent poverty in some countries, and growing inequalities worldwide, are stark reminders that economic globalization and liberalization have not created an environment conducive to sustainable and equitable social development.

Moving forward, we need to break from business as usual. The road to sustained prosperity globally is through rising incomes leading to improvements in social welfare, driven by an inclusive growth agenda. To enable sustainable development, and facilitate equality and equity, requires a much more development friendly international economic framework. We need to provide more favorable external conditions, and policy space for developing countries to pursue economic, social and environmental goals.

The MDGs has rightly brought to focus the importance of human centered development by focusing on health, education and other social goals and targets. However, what is truly missing in the equation is an integrated approach, which gives due weight to economic development.

We need goals that will create the same opportunities for countries through financing, technology and capacity building. We need goals that can support the empowerment of

developing countries to achieve sustainable development through sustained, inclusive and equitable access to economic and social development.

Mr. Co-chairs,

As we look to the next decade, extreme poverty will remain a grave concern. However, there is also the new “bottom billion” or 72% of the world’s poor that live in middle-income countries. Irrespective of economic growth, the trend of middle-income poverty is expected to continue until 2030.

This is due to the fact that even with the shift over the last two decades of increasingly more countries from low to middle income status, the income-based graduation has masked continued economic and social challenges. In many ways, those that have graduated remain vulnerable to heightened levels of inequality and being caught in the “middle-income trap”.

Cooperation with industrialized countries and emerging economies does help middle-income countries tackle the multiple challenges that are restricting their short- and long-term productive capacity.

Innovative dialogues, along with adaptive structures, play a role in ensuring the pursuit of sound environmental, economic and social policies. Networks can be of particular use, being voluntary in nature. They are more responsive to emerging needs and opportunities, and as such they can quickly enroll new members and pool resources.

Mr. Co-chairs,

With regard to gender equality, we are of the view that the international community needs a renewed commitment to promote gender equality and empower women to achieve sustainable people-centered development. Challenges in eradicating poverty, including those faced by women and girls, are other imperatives that require particular attention and multilateral action together with all stakeholders.

We are of the view that only genuine partnerships and strengthened cooperation from developed countries, aimed at expanding opportunities for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women, will bring significant progress.

We support to have a stand-alone goal on gender equality. Countries should integrate the gender issue into their national social and economic development policies, provide protection for women in the areas of politics, economy, education, health employment, social protection and family life.

Mr. Co-chairs,

I would like to reiterate that achieving sustainable development depends on expanding opportunities for all countries. We need to invest in human capital. This means ensuring access to quality education, health, and other social services, freedom from discrimination and violence, skills-building and decent work opportunities for all young women and men. However, these goals can most effectively be achieved when it is accompanied by economic equality. Financial inclusion, ensuring social safety nets, aid for trade, debt restructuring and resolution mechanism are among other key development issues that we need to have a wider conversation on to ensure an inclusive, sustainable and equitable development.

Mr. Co-chairs,

In addition to this statement, Indonesia will have our national statement posted in the website.

I thank you.