

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA, Ms.  
FORTUNA DIBACO , AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING  
GROUP ON SDGs, April 1, 2014**

**CLUSTER 2: - Gender equality and women's empowerment -  
Education - Employment and decent work for all - Health and  
population dynamics**

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

The MDGs have shown us how the world can come together around shared aims. Looking beyond the MDGs, a post-2015 agenda should reinforce what we have achieved in these shared aims. One of the six pillars of Africa's development priorities is people centered development. Therefore, it is Ethiopia's strong view that the SDGs must continue with the three goals of MDGs namely education, health and gender equality and empowerment of women to be formulated as standalone separate goals.

With regard to population dynamics, it is obvious that it has important implications to the economy, social and environment dimensions of sustainable development. As a crosscutting issue, It should be addressed in health, poverty related goals and in other appropriate goals. Moreover, Taking into consideration its importance to sustainable development and poverty eradication, we are also pleased to see that employment and decent work is mainstreamed in all appropriate goals.

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

Gender equality and empowerment of women is an important objective with multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. .We strongly support that "Achieve Gender equality and empower women" with the following targets

1. Ensuring women access to land and other productive assets, credit , finance and extension services, training;
2. Ensure sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights to women;
3. End all forms of violence against women and children;
4. End early marriage , forced marriage and Female genital mutilation;
5. Ensure equal participation of women in political, economic, and public decision making processes
6. Ensure adequate and predictable financing and technical assistance

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

With regard to education, tremendous achievements have been made and acceleration efforts continue to propel progress on the education-related MDGs and the Education for All Goals. Yet, it is widely recognized that the education agenda will not be completed by 2015 and will continue to remain critically relevant. The post 2015 agenda also aim to address quality as reflected in learning outcomes, which will need to be more widely and effectively measured. .

As a key determinant for sustainable development, achieving social well-being and cohesion and good governance, education is widely-recognized as an enabler for wider development progress in such areas as poverty eradication, gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, health, nutrition, employment, economic growth, sustainable production and consumption and climate. Therefore, we support the following goal and targets on education

Goal: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels.

We would like also to propose the following as:-

Targets:

- (a) Ensure universal access to free primary and secondary education focusing on learning outcomes and reducing repetition by 50% and the dropout rates to zero;
- (b) Increase the quality of education at all levels and increase literacy and numeracy rates of adults and children;
- (c) Eliminate gender disparities in education and training
- (d) Ensure effective learning outcomes at all levels and imparting knowledge and skills that match the demands of the labour market, including through technical and vocational trainings;
- (e) Ensure access to information technology skills;
- (f) Provide enhanced financial and technical support and capacity building; including improving higher educational and technical and vocational education and training facilities and equipment;

**Mr. Co-Chair,**

With regards to the health promotion, the diseases that primarily affect the poor must remain a central focus of post-2015 global health efforts, and this needs to be reflected in the health goal and targets. In this regards, we would like to suggest the following:-

Goal: Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all.

Under this goal we would like to propose seven targets as follows:-

Targets:

- 1) End preventable infant and maternal death by 2030;
- 2) Increase by 50% the proportion of children, adolescents, at-risk adults and older people that are fully vaccinated;
- 3) Decrease the maternal mortality ratio to no more than 40 per 100,000;
- 4) Ensure universal access to comprehensive sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights;
- 5) End the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria; g) Increase by 50% the ratio of health professionals to the population;
- 6) Reducing road accident by 50%
- l) Ensure adequate and predictable financing ,technical assistance and capacity building