

Remarks by Denmark, Ireland and Norway

Focus area 4: Education

We welcome the text regarding education, which overall reflects many of the important aspects that should be addressed in a future goal on education. In particular, we welcome that Focus area 4 stresses the right to education .

We would like to highlight a number of issues and suggest some additions, which we propose be taken forward as possible target areas:

- universal, free primary and secondary **quality** education for girls and boys;
- ensure equitable access to education at all levels with focus on the most marginalized, including indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, migrants, **and children in conflict and humanitarian situations**;
- achieving high completion rates at all levels of education for both girls and boys;
- providing universal early childhood **care** and education;
- ensuring effective learning outcomes at all levels, and imparting knowledge and skills that match the demands of the labour market **and address youth unemployment**, including through vocational training and skills development for youth.
- universal adult literacy and lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- integrating sustainable development in education curricula.

Focus area 11: Employment and decent work for all

Employment and decent work is key to poverty eradication and social inclusion and should be reflected in the SDG-framework.

The text includes many action areas of importance to poverty eradication and sustainable development and we would like to highlight just a number of important points.

Firstly, we welcome

- the **focus on macroeconomic policy** in promoting full employment.
- The emphasis on the **participation of youth and women in the labour force** and the importance of eliminating discrimination.
- the inclusion of social security and protection, as recognized in the **human rights conventions**. Effective social protection offers a powerful means to address inequalities.
- **The emphasis on the rights of workers, which we believe should include all workers.**

Secondly, we would like to encourage the co-chairs to include:

- **the quality of jobs** in rural and urban areas, and ensure safe and secure working environments including occupational safety and health..
- the creation of decent green jobs through a proactive approach to environmental challenges.