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.