

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development- 10th Session
31 March- 4 April 2014

Cyprus-Singapore-United Arab Emirates

Friday, April 4, 2014

Talking points

Thank you Mr. Co- Chair, I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Troika of Cyprus, Singapore and the UAE.

On Focus area 19: Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

Our troika attaches great importance to Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions. Undoubtedly, peace between states and within states creates conditions to spur sustainable development.

Without peace, states' efforts to implement sustainable development policies would be distracted.

On the other hand economic prosperity of the people and welfare of society and its youth is essential for conflict prevention, post conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance.

In addition we believe, it is important to recognize the central role that women can play, in promoting peaceful and non-violent societies including in prevention, protection, peacebuilding and recovery.

In the report of the UNSG 'Securing peace and development' there are two very important findings that our Troika fully shares. The first is that security, human rights and development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing conditions for sustainable peace. The second is the recognition that these fundamental elements can be achieved only with a broad framework of the rule of law.

To have peaceful and non-violent societies, there must be an adherence to the rule of law and good governance. This adherence similarly creates conditions for sustainable development to take place.

The troika is of the view that a multipronged approach could be adopted. Some of these issues under Focus Area 19 could be viewed as potential cross cutting targets, while some of them could be mainstreamed into different sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In addition the selected issues should be practical and balanced by what member states can achieve at the national implementation level.

Mr. Co Chair

During this week's deliberations our Troika put forward very concrete proposals on targets related to conflict and post conflict situations under a number of focus areas. We have noted that others have done the same and look forward to further proposals and robust ideas on action areas that could truly make a difference in order to realize the UN Millennium Declaration vision: that men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and the fear of violence, oppression or injustice.

Thank you Mr. Co Chair.