On poverty eradication and the promotion of equality

Tenth Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

New York, March 31, 2014

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Intervención en nombre de la República del Paraguay

Sobre la erradicación de la pobreza y la promoción de la igualdad

Décima Sesión del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta sobre los Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible

Nueva York, 31 de marzo de 2014

Por favor verificar contra lectura.
Mister Co-Chair,

The delegation of Paraguay values the systematization work that the Co-Chairs have done with the inputs from the stocktaking stage of this process. The explicit references to the means of implementations in the document recently issued prove that this process is evolving in a right direction. In this regard, we encourage the Co-Chairs to deepen on this approach, and to underscore how financing for development intertwines with the goals of sustainability we endeavor to establish. This approach will prevent the process of elaboration of sustainable development goals from fading its meaning.

As the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of G77 and China, and of the delegation of Zambia, on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, already provided in their statements the general view of the delegation of Paraguay on the issues under discussion, we will enunciate in our National capacity, some aspects that we consider worth to highlight and deepen.

There are systemic and structural barriers to development that we intend to address as the discussions follow according to the agenda of this process, such us, the reform of the international financial institutions and the conclusion of the Doha Round, alongside with the strengthening of the freedom of transit and the development of transport systems.

We are aware that all of us should keep in mind global objectives and address the interests and development needs of all countries involved in this process. However, we are also aware that there are specific development needs and particular challenges of landlocked countries and other countries in special situations that should also be considered throughout this process.
We conceive poverty eradication and the promotion of equality at the center of all the process of elaboration of SDGs. All other focus areas must converge into these two and must be conducive to achieving them. In this context, lack of access to the seacoast is a key issue for our development. Overcoming this challenge is present in every single aspect of the multidimensional effort to eradicate poverty and to promote equality.

Therefore, mainstreaming the principle of special and differential treatment for LLDCs in all focus areas is essential; particularly, in those on infrastructure and transport, among others. Poverty eradication and the promotion of equality will only be attainable in LLDCs by tackling the promotion of production diversification and by ensuring effective access to international markets for our production. These are also the only ways to lower our vulnerability, to develop resilience and to become able to resist external shocks effectively. The lack of access to markets will otherwise lead us to competitiveness loss and lack of diversification and to a vicious cycle where trade loses its relevance as a tool for the creation of wealth.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.