

**Open-Working Group on
Sustainable Development Goals
10th Meeting**

**Poverty eradication
Promote equality**

I have the honor to make this intervention on behalf of **Croatia and Bulgaria**.

Co-chairs, let me begin by expressing our appreciation for your efforts to move our work forward. We consider the revised documents containing the focus areas and their inter-linkages as useful basis for our further deliberations.

Concerning the focus area on Poverty eradication our entity would like to make the following comments. We believe that poverty eradication should appear as a standalone goal in the future agenda. Eradication of poverty should have right based approach and be supportive to the basic living standards and gender equality, including the empowerment of women, ensuring long term social, economic and environmental sustainability, managing and reducing risks and strengthening community resilience.

We also consider the issues of peaceful societies and the rule of law and good governance as fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development.

We fully agree that poverty has multi-dimensional nature and requires a comprehensive approach in order to be eradicated.

Having said that we are pleased to see that the action areas contained in the document before us includes aspects of need of social protection of the vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children, older people, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples etc.

Also, to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty we find that culture, as a contributor to economic growth, should be included as another action area.

We believe that when talking about poverty eradication we have to make sure that practical actions and implementation strategies are in place both on global and national levels. Definitely, we cannot eradicate poverty if we don't address the existing inequalities again on national and international levels.

In this regard we consider the issue of inequalities as a cross-cutting issue that should be dealt with accordingly.

In conclusion, we would also like to briefly reflect on our morning's discussion regarding methodology, especially on the means of implementation and the principle of universality.

On the first one we would like to discuss in the separate focus area. In particular, we believe that in our future deliberations and outcomes we need to be also mindful of other processes such as the work of the Committee of experts and others. We would first have to decide on goals and targets and then discuss the details of means of implementation.

On the second issue of universality, we believe that Post-2015 agenda should be universal and that goals and targets should be applicable to all countries taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. Additionally, we do believe that CBDR's position belongs in the context of climate related issues.

Finally, let me assure you Mr. Chair of our full cooperation. We stand ready together with all partners in order to achieve the mandate of this group.