



Date: 4 April 2014

Cluster 8: Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

Joint input of Montenegro and Slovenia for the 10th Meeting of OWG SDG

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Slovenia and Montenegro

We support that issue of peaceful societies on one hand and human rights, good governance, rule of law and effective institutions on the other, should be considered in the new agenda as two distinct goals.

Peaceful and non-violent societies:

Peace is a prerequisite for development in general, as well as for sustainable development. Without peace the efforts toward poverty eradication will not bear the expected results. There will be also no fulfillment of fundamental human aspirations, including freedom from fear and violence and freedom to live in dignity as fundamental rights for building peaceful and prosperous societies.

On the other hand, more inclusive and equal societies are more likely to live peacefully, generate long-term and sustainable development and growth and to recover faster from economic downturns.

Therefore, the post-2015 agenda needs to promote a critical need to adequately and sustainably invest in all people, including the most disadvantaged, to unlock the human productive potential on the basis of equal rights and opportunities.

Peace and security should be taken broadly in the context of the new framework; it should include all forms of violence, not only those caused by conflict. We need to target the root causes of conflict and violence.

Priority should be given to ensuring basic safety and justice for all, regardless their economic and social status or political affiliation. Targeting the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination, especially against women and children, regardless ethnic origin, citizenship, religion or/and membership of a particular social group, would be very important area under this goal.

The aspect of education in this regard would be also important. Another important element in this regard is also promoting information and education on a culture of non-violence, including through promoting the use of mediation and interfaith dialogue.

Within this goal we would support enhancing the capacity and accountability of security forces, police and judiciary.

Important effort would be also to reduce organized crime, including human and wildlife trafficking.

We welcome stronger inclusion of migration in this goal. We believe that migration is complex process that should be addressed holistically. In this regard we propose to give more attention also to:

- tackling of the root causes of forced migration;
- enhancing partnership cooperation in the field of migration, mobility and development with the countries of origin and transit;
- awareness of enhancing protection of persons displaced because of the climate changes and environmental reasons;
- reducing the number of asylum seekers.

Rule of law and capable institutions:

Good governance has always been recognized as a critical element for advancing sustainable development. Realization of principles such as accountability, participation and the enjoyment of human rights will ensure human right based approach, which will allow us not to leave no one behind.

Rule of law at all levels is crucial for the realization of sustainable economic growth, sustainable development, eradication of poverty, and the protection of all human rights. It is also a key element for promoting equality and addressing discrimination.

Effective and fair institutions are important to ensure that all people have equal rights and equal opportunities to improve their lives.

Under this goal priority should be given to:

- ensuring effective, accountable and transparent institutions;
- ensuring the enjoyment of freedom of speech, association and peaceful protest;
- realization of the right to information;
- reducing the corruption and ensuring that those involved in such activities are held accountable;
- strengthening the civil society, including women's and youth groups, as well as organizations of vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups;
- promoting stakeholder dialogue and their participation in policy formation and decision-making.