

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Statement by Troika of Bhutan, Thailand and Viet Nam
On Focus Area 4: Education and life-long learning
5 May 2014

1. I speak on behalf of the Troika comprising Bhutan, Viet Nam and Thailand. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China.
2. On the important focus area dealing with education, our Troika's view is that revised working document seeks to build on the strengths of MDGs – the emphasis is not only on increasing access, but also on improving the quality of education and looking at it as a life-long pursuit. Education virtually impacts all dimensions of sustainable development and is critical for addressing poverty, which can come only through the empowerment of our people through education.
3. Given the critical role that education can play in addressing the development challenges of our times, our Troika believes that we must continue to maintain the high level of ambition in considering a goal on education. Our Troika supports the proposed targets under this focus area in the revised document, particularly on the inclusion of a target that provides for ensuring educational access to persons with disabilities.
4. In addition to the proposed targets and in order to address the issue of improving the quality of education, our Troika would support a target geared towards enhancing the quality of teaching through providing support and incentives to the [professional development and career advancement of the educators](#).
5. Under means of implementation, we would welcome seeing a strong global partnership on education through support in capacity building and training, scholarships, research and development, and transfer of knowledge on a mutual beneficial basis.
6. I thank you, Mr. Chair.