



**Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas**  
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The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Co Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and has the honor to enclose its proposal of target concerning early pregnancy, as indicated during the first day of debate of the OWG-11 under Focus Area 1. "Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality":

**"by 2030 reduce early pregnancy by y% through the establishment of specific policies, including comprehensive education programs on human sexuality"**

No effort to eradicate extreme poverty in a sustained and sustainable manner and to reduce poverty as such, certainly the overarching objective of the SDGs, will be possible, without a definite commitment to prevent early pregnancies of young girls and teenagers.

Teenage motherhood is one of the most serious challenges to face in order to eradicate poverty. Its physical and psychological effects may put in jeopardy their opportunities to improve their social and economic situation and the consequences are usually irreversible. It is also the largest limiting factor in overcoming the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

According to the findings of a new study by ECLAC, "Teenager procreation and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean", teen motherhood impacts negatively in women's autonomy and empowerment. Besides, despite recent actions taken by many countries, early motherhood is incompatible with the increase of schooling of girls and adolescents. When examining differences between teen mothers and women without children at the age of 20, it is noticed that women without children study or combine their study with work, while teen mothers are devoted exclusively to work, or worse, they do not study nor work, having access mainly to poorly paid, tedious jobs, inadequate for their wellbeing and to a satisfactory life.

As a consequence, teenage mothers tend to stop attending school more often than those without children thus generating an economic and social disadvantage for themselves and their children. This confirms that, as shown by several studies, most of early pregnancies come from the poorest sectors of society. Unable to achieve better education, they are unable to get better jobs, which perpetuates a cycle of poverty just as indicated by ECLAC which states that "teenage motherhood has strong ties to an intergenerational cycle of poverty".

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The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica appreciates all the cooperation given to the inclusion of this important target in the next official document of the Open Working Group (the Zero Draft).

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Co Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 6 May, 2014



To the  
Co Chairs of the  
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals  
New York