

TUNISIA STATEMENT AT THE 11TH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGS DELIVERED BY MR ELYES LAKHAL, COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Focus area 5/ Gender equality and women's empowerment.

- Focus area 6/ Water and sanitation

Thank you Mr. Co-chair for giving me the floor.

I would like first to align my delegation with the statements made by Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China, and Lesotho on behalf of the African Group on these two clusters.

My delegation supports a stand alone goal on gender equality and women empowerment.

We believe that a human right perspective that prioritises the economic and social needs of countries especially those developing countries in special situations could concretely and effectively empower women in particular those in vulnerable situation, such as the poor, disabled, widow, divorced and rural women, as well as orphan girls and women living under foreign occupation.

My delegation is of the view that without ensuring rural development, infrastructure modernisation, economic growth and job creation, women empowerment will remain "ink on paper" and could hardly be achieved. In this regard, my delegation would like to make the following proposals to enhance the action lines **under focus area 5**:

On Means of Implementation: we propose the following actions :

- Increase the international financial support by x % in 2020; devoted to supporting Developed Countries rural development in particular modernizing their basic infrastructure.
- Increase the international financial support by x% in 2020 to Developing countries efforts on creating decent jobs for women.
- Implement concrete measures and policies at the national and international levels to ensure economic and social empowerment of women , in particular marginalized women such as rural, poor, widow, disabled, divorced women as well as orphan girls and women living under foreign occupation.

We would like also to amend the following **action lines** so that they read the following:

- Ending violence against All girls and women (new)

- ensuring equitable participation and leadership of women in decision-making in public and private institutions as well as in political participation and representation (new)

My delegation would like also to propose **adding the following targets under cluster 5** :

- Ensure Protection and promotion of Mothers human rights
- Ensure women's access to modern forms of information and communication technologies

On Focus area 6. Water and sanitation , we would like to stress that this goal is closely linked to infrastructure development and modernization. In this regard, my delegation extends its support, in particular, to the following targets:

- ensuring equitable access and consumption of safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation for all by 2030
- Effective management and sustainable use of water resources at all levels (new)
- Increase water efficiency in agricultural and food production, industry and energy generation, also in support of equitable and sustainable growth 637 (new)
- Promote 100% wastewater treatment and improve water use efficiency by 2020 (support)
- Reduce the mortality caused by floods and other water-related disasters by x% in 2020 and y% in 2030
- Increase the International Support by x% provided to efforts of developing countries in the areas of water and sanitation, through provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer (support)
- Enhance effective water governance at all levels (new)
- Reduce the number of countries facing water scarcity and number of people under the water poverty line; by 25% in 2020 and by 50% in 2030. This last target is also closely linked to achieving peace and security at the national and international levels.

Thank you for your attention.