

## **Remarks by Denmark, Ireland and Norway Regarding Focus Area 4 on Education**

Thank you, Mr. Co-chair

- We welcome that universal, free, equitable access to quality education is presented as a stand-alone goal underlining the right to education. We would like to commend the co-chairs for the clear emphasis on the importance of access to quality education.
- We welcome a target on addressing the needs of people with disabilities.
- We would also like to see that this goal includes a target on overcoming all forms of discrimination, including those based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, language, religion, and socio-economic status.
- We would also like to point out the urgent need to ensure access to education for children in conflict and humanitarian situations.
- With reference to target (c) we would like to re-emphasize the importance of early childhood care, not only pre-primary education.
- With reference to target (g) we support inclusion of language on the need to ensure girls safety and an environment free from sexual harassment in schools. This should include making schools safer for girls, having a high proportion of female teachers, and adequate sanitation for both boys and girls in schools.
- We also believe it is important for the education system to contribute to the achievement of gender equality and therefore we suggest the inclusion of an action area on eliminating gender stereotypes.
- We support the inclusion in f) of education for sustainable development.
- We would furthermore welcome learning, which is relevant for the daily lives of children and adolescents, including education on human rights, life skills and comprehensive sexuality education.