

**Open Working Group
on Sustainable Development Goals
11th Meeting**

Statement on

**Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions
by Croatia and Bulgaria**

As Croatia and Bulgaria have already shared in length our positions on the issues during our previous meetings, we will seek to avoid their duplications and reiterations as much as possible. However, speaking also on behalf of my country that has unfortunately recently endured the experience of war while also going through a major political and economic transition, allow me to underscore once again the essence of *sustainable peace as critical for any meaningful sustainable development* that needs to be at the very heart and a new added value for development agenda of the 21st century.

We firmly believe that main drivers of development not only include but are safeguarded through and by peace, safety, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law, transparency and accountability, freedom of speech, media and belief, democratic participation and inclusiveness in decision-making processes.

This is why we would like to see both areas, **“Peaceful and inclusive societies”** as well as **“Rule of law, capable institutions”**, to become separate future stand alone goals, as was clearly suggested by a number of delegations during previous meetings.

Having said that, we would like to turn to proposed targets and express our satisfaction with the fact that most important proposals, some also given in our statements, have been integrated in the Working document. We would appreciate, though, if our support could also be noted for targets currently listed under endnotes 162), 163), 167), 169), 172) and 176) respectively.

As we start to narrow down our deliberations to more exact indicators, we will need more concrete input and data, both from national and international sources. That should help us have a more clear vision on how to implement the principle of universality while we face different circumstances nationally.

In conclusion, we would also like to propose in our view, an important adjustment of first of the sub-headings with suggestion of replacing the word “creating” with **“fostering”** that would enable us to reflect more accurately the complex nature of the issue as well as recognize different realities and needs of countries around the globe. We support the proposal of the ambassador of Peru on inclusion of cultural aspect in targets b) and d). Additionally, we would propose the insertion of the word **“public”** before the word **“institutions”** under area Rule of law, capable institutions in target a).

Finally, we have the utmost respect and confidence that Co-Chairs’ efforts in trying to shape all our views in a single document will prepare ground for consensus that will help this Working group to fulfil its mandate.

Thank you for the attention.