

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen. We are here today representing the Roma people and other underserved communities throughout the world who do not have a voice on the world stage. We are here today to stress the importance of SDG Goal 10, target 10.2, which states by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. The Roma people have been historically discriminated against and their rights have been trampled upon. As a result of these atrocities, they are facing high levels of poverty and unemployment. This has resulted in them being excluded from society at large.

To fully implement the 2030 agenda at all levels, issues of equity and inclusion must be addressed. Inclusion is not just about equality and fairness, but it is also about improving the quality of life for all. It is about making sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate in sustainable development and benefit from this process.

To achieve inclusive growth, we need to move away from traditional approaches that focus solely on individual or household level outcomes towards systems thinking where we consider how policies are implemented within specific contexts (such as urban vs rural areas) or sectoral groups (such as industry). Inclusive growth is particularly needed at this time when we are facing a number of challenges. We need to ensure that everyone has access to the opportunities they need to participate in society and contribute to economic development. We need to ensure that everyone can participate in society and contribute to economic development. Sustainable development will only be achieved when people at all levels of society have the opportunity to access basic services and have a say in decisions that affect them.