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**Industrialization and promoting equality among nations  
Sustainable cities and human settlements**  
SI and MNE elements for 11<sup>th</sup> session of OWG SDGs

Focus area 9: Industrialization and promoting equality among nations

As we have pointed during the discussion on economic growth and employment, we support actions on providing enabling environment for medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs is significant especially when taking into account decline in the share of industry in GDP in recent years, as well as the fact the industrial sector is characterized by lower productivity and competitiveness. Therefore encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs highly contributes to the changes of the development concept of the manufacturing industry.

Improvement in this context is not possible without the increase in resource efficiency of industry. Due to that we would support possible actions on increasing resource efficiency, including water and energy, on one hand and decreasing waste and intensity of carbon emissions on the other hand.

We support progress in moving towards resource productivity in a manner to contribute to decoupling the resource utilization and environmental pollution with economic development.

Also, taking into account the decreased share of the industry in the GDP, the need for continuous application of the technical and technological innovations in the production processes and innovations in management processes is evident.

We welcome possible target on reducing use of harmful chemicals; we believe that this should be underpinned by promotion of their rational, informed and responsible use. However, we believe that further attention should be also given to the development of sustainable alternatives in the field of chemicals.

## Focus Area 10: Sustainable cities and human settlements

We welcome co-chairs' approach to taking into consideration all three dimensions of sustainable development in possible areas for action on sustainable cities and human settlements.

As we have indicated at previous sessions we would support possible targets on promoting integrated urban planning and management, in congruency with social cohesion and safe public places.

Integrated and sustainable spatial planning is a precondition in enabling sustainable development of cities and towns. At the same time we have to bear in mind sustainable development of cities and towns is not possible without balanced development of urban and rural areas.

With regard to the balanced territorial development we again emphasise the importance of developing non-agricultural job opportunities in rural areas.

By supporting the proposal on integrated and sustainable spatial planning we would especially like to point out the significance of application of the following points:

Firstly, spatial planning should be in accordance with the carrying capacity of the environment; cumulative assessment of the pressures to the environment and human health; need to preserve valuable landscapes, valuable and protected areas of nature and cultural heritage. In this regard we welcome proposed targets on reducing ecological footprints of cities, on enhancing adaptation and resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also support proposed target on protecting cultural and natural heritage.

Secondly, we should strive towards achievement of a balanced ratio of green areas and rural areas on one hand and construction areas on the other hand, and prevention of intensive conversion of agricultural and forest land into construction zones. We also point out the importance of green city areas. We support stronger stance on providing green and recreational areas and promoting healthy lifestyles in designing cities.

Thirdly, more attention should be given to prevention of dispersed construction and irrational use of construction land, in particular to the prevention of the conversion of valuable agricultural and forestry land.

Fourthly, we strongly support application of the instruments of sustainable spatial planning, such as environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental impact assessment, mapping and valorisation of landscapes, carrying capacity assessment, coastal set back determination and prevention of linear urbanization along the coast.

As to contribute to the sustainable development of cities and towns the actions towards sustainable transport systems would be necessary. Being aware of the fact transport is among most intensive generators of air pollution we would like to emphasize the importance of advanced air quality monitoring.