

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS
5-9 MAY, 2014, NEW YORK**

CYPRUS-SINGAPORE-UAE

May 6, 2014

Focus area 5: Gender equality and women's empowerment

Attain gender equality and women's empowerment everywhere

- Our Troika is very supportive of a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment and we are very pleased to see this maintained in the new revised document.
- We support action areas (a) and (b) as potential targets under a gender goal. On (b) we would like to suggest more comprehensive actions in order to make this target more feasible. Our proposal reads: " By 2030 end, prevent, protect from, respond to, and provide effective remedies for violence against women and girls in all its forms".
- We would also like to strengthen action area (e) so that it reads " by 2030 ensure that women have equal rights and opportunities as men to access and control assets and resources, including access to financial services and to participate in natural resources management". We also note overlap with focus area 1(f).
- Action area (h) on unpaid care work needs to be better elaborated. We should look to reduce the burden of unpaid care work including by promoting the equal participation of each parent in caring for their children and other family members and household chores; providing equal access to affordable quality care for children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; and providing for social security and incentives such as parental leave and flexible working arrangements. Some of these suggestions could act as indicators.
- On action area (i) while we support the target we would like to include the phrase "in accordance to national plans and strategies" as member states have different policies and constraints on how to achieve it.

Focus area 6: Water and sanitation

Water and sanitation for a sustainable world

- On focus area 6 we note that sanitation is under-represented in the working document despite being one of the most lagging issues in the MDG set. Our troika would like to see this issue more strengthened with a proposal on the following action area: "End\reduce open defecation".
- On action area (c) we would like to note overlap with focus area 2(c)
- On action area (g) we propose to retain the second half, to focus on the end and not on the means. And the action area would read "double the rainwater harvested by 2030"
- We support action area (h) but we note overlaps with focus area 1 (d)