



## Cluster 8 Statement for Intervention

### *Thank you Co-Chairs.*

I am Pooja Parvati speaking on behalf of Women's Major Group, Children & Youth group, and others.

Co-Chairs, we commend the changes to the new version of the Focus Areas document and are happy to see articulation on Peaceful, Non-violent Societies and Rule of Law as, without this basic precondition, no development is possible. However, it is clubbing a lot of critical issues in a limited frame. Hence, we call for two separate focus areas. We also seek an additional standalone focus area on Governance.

We would like to submit five points for your consideration:

1. The SDGs should strengthen investments in **peaceful societies** based on just and equitable norms. Targets must focus on ending conflicts due to resource extraction and militarization that lead to human rights violation (of women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities). The SDGs must also recognize role of women's participation and rights in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

We will be submitting a fuller written statement incorporating all inputs received with detailing of targets.

2. In order to **secure human rights and rule of law for all**, more focus must be on involving state, non-state actors to implement checks against human rights abuses **with** targets to end child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour killings, and violence based on sexual orientation. Promoting rule of law implies increasing access to and confidence in justice systems for all through strong legal systems consistent with international human rights standards.

We recommend process mechanisms such as increased budgets for human rights & gender equality in strategic intergovernmental and national planning frameworks; and accountability mechanisms to ensure public and private institutions respect human rights.

3. While the document mentions inclusive decision-making, greater focus is needed to bolster **citizens', civil society participation** & institutionalise inclusive, gender-equitable mechanisms by creating regular disaggregated data; public access to information; and, independent oversight. Ensuring economic entitlements for vulnerable groups is also vital to make policies people-centric.

4. We call for the SDG frame to mainstream **justice-based governance** with a standalone goal incorporating transparent, accountable, responsive and participatory governance mechanisms and institutions that respond to specific disadvantages confronting most marginalised. Right to information, freedom of association, speech and media, legislative and community oversight, and effective local governance structures are key in this regard.

5. The new frame must explicitly aim to **end corruption** and promote integrity in government, private sector and IFIs through targets to curb transnational corruption, reduce illicit financial flows and tax evasion, national measures to promote progressive tax structures, strengthen independent ombudsman mechanisms and effective legal redress.

***Thank you.***