**OIDEL**

DROIT A L'EDUCATION ET LIBERTE D'ENSEIGNEMENT | RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND FREEDOM OF EDUCATION |
CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UN, UNESCO AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**Panel discussion: Intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda**

Thank Mr. Chair,

We appreciate this meeting's focus on SDG 17.  One of the targets of SDG 17 is the enhancement of **multi-stakeholder partnerships** to support the achievement of all the different SDGs. I'd like to comment on that and its meaning for SDG4.

We, OIDEL, work for the achievement of SDG4, for a holistic realization of the right to education and freedom of education. In our field, family and community are important stakeholders, yet too often they are neglected. The contribution of parents and the community is crucial for the realization of the right to education and critical for children belonging to non-mainstream groups. SDG 4 wants "quality education", but what does that mean? Does providing the same education for all children guarantee quality education? Is there one, homogenous approach to ensure the main goal of education which is "the full development of the human personality"? No. Education has to be adapted to the cultural background of the child. Parents have the right to educate their children according to their and their community's values and culture. And to grant those cultural rights and eliminate discrimination, the community must be included and listened to, and trusted in decision-making processes concerning education.

And this partnership cannot be a one-off thing. Communities are always changing. Societies are increasingly plural and communities are in constant dialogue with each other. That means that a multi-stakeholder partnership in education has to be dynamic and continually evolving as do the stakeholder communities.

We highly recommend including the need for trust in parents and communities for the achievement of SDG 4 and SDG 17 in the key messages for inclusion in the political declaration of the SDG Summit and the HLPF.

Thank you.