



**Colombia's Statement at the First Informal Consultations for the SDG Summit
Political Declaration**

February 3rd, 2023

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Thank you, Mr. and Ms. Co-facilitators,

I would like to begin by congratulating the honorable Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Qatar on their appointment as co-facilitators of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. We trust in their skills and good judgment to bring this process to a successful conclusion.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China, and Morocco on behalf of the Group of Countries in Support of Middle Income Countries and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals are the roadmap for achieving a peaceful, sustainable and resilient world. It sets out measurable deliverables that encompass, in a balanced way, the three dimensions of development, recognizing their intrinsic interdependence.

Despite the challenges in its implementation, today we can all agree that the 2030 Agenda is still the goal we want to reach. It is still relevant. However, more than 10 years ago, when Colombia began to promote this idea, it was received with skepticism, for moving away from the "agreed language", from the "agreed instruments".

We also know that we are collectively failing to implement it and that the impact of the pandemic has meant a setback of decades in several SDGs, particularly in developing countries. However, our collective commitment to achieve them by 2030 remains unwavering, and so we must ask ourselves:

Are we willing to agree on the necessary actions, to have the level of ambition and political will required, to dare to be transgressive and introduce the systemic transformations that we have postponed for years, or are we going to continue sticking to the status quo of the agreed language?

The Colombian delegation is prepared to make the Political Declaration an ambitious roadmap for transformation. Millions of people living in extreme poverty require it. It is

essential that the membership approach these discussions with openness, receptivity and creativity.

There are several initiatives, many of them contained in Our Common Agenda, that can be catalysts for the transformations we need.

One of these is the reform of the international financial architecture and progress in changing the economic model. Developing countries must have enabling solutions that increase their fiscal space and their ability to access resources in order to secure a future that protects people and the planet. Scaling up the application of debt-for-nature and climate action swaps would be a significant step towards a financial system that makes debt servicing an effective mechanism for achieving the SDGs.

In addition, establishing criteria beyond GDP in order to not only measure our progress in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner, but also inform access to finance, would be a cross-cutting measure across all 17 SDGs and have a substantial impact on the mobilization of concessional and non-concessional resources.

Mr. Co-facilitator,

Let me conclude by noting that sustainable development will never be possible if we leave half of the population behind. Gender equity and the empowerment of all women and girls is a prerequisite and cuts across all other SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda must be implemented in an intersectional manner, guaranteeing the full inclusion and participation of those populations that have been traditionally marginalized, including Indigenous Peoples, peasants, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, and with an intergenerational approach that gives a full voice to young people. The Political Declaration must vindicate this purpose.

Thank you very much.