

Statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries
Supporters of Middle-Income Countries

First informal consultations on the political declaration to be adopted by the SDG Summit (the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly) in September 2023.

Friday 3 February 2023, 10:00 am CR3

Thank you, Co-facilitator, for giving me the floor,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, composed of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Uruguay and my own country Morocco.

The Group congratulates you Distinguished Ambassadors for assuming the co-facilitation of this important process. You can count on our full support and constructive engagement throughout the upcoming consultations.

Allow me, Madam Cofacilitator to advance the following points in response to some of the guiding questions you shared with us for this consultation:

- **The LMG-MICs believes that the SDG summit is a crucial opportunity to renew our firm commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 agenda** and a crucial moment of reflection, frank discussion, and concrete evaluation of our endeavors towards the implementation of the SDGs at a very critical juncture and halfway from the 2030 horizon.
- **In this regard, we expect a political declaration that brings overwhelming consensus and that is readable and meaningful for the people outside the UN headquarter. Achieving this goal is obviously in our hands, an impactful and relevant political declaration can only be possible with concrete recommendations and deliverable call for action for the SDGs and which responds to the realities of our countries.**
- Regarding the important elements that need to be included in the political declaration, we would like to make an emphasis on the preliminary following points:
 - 1- Given the specific nature of the political declaration of the SDG summit, we believe that the text should provide practical crosscutting solutions that tackle in a comprehensive and concise manner the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and fully recognize their interrelated and indivisible nature. Bearing in mind the interlinkages and complementarity of its goals and targets and balancing its three pillars. Our Group also**

supports a transformative declaration, rooted in the realities in the ground, and forward looking in terms of building resilience and preparing a better future.

- 2- We expect that the political declaration brings concrete solutions-recommendations to the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the multiple crisis faced by MICs, which continue to face multidimensional challenges, such as weak or severely impacted health and education systems, high levels of indebtedness and limited fiscal space, digital gaps, institutional capacities, technical challenges, such as analytical challenges and operational challenges, among many others.**
- 3- We expect that the political declaration will bring an ambitious reconceptualization of development measurement and development cooperation to go beyond the simplistic algorithmic GDP criteria to be able to apply broader comprehensive methodologies during the second half of the SDG implementation process to allow us to take into account the multidimensional aspects of development.** Applying beyond GDP criteria to inform access to concessional and non-concessional finance, as well as technical cooperation, must be part of the widely call to reform the international financial system. The expected policy briefs on Beyond GDP should be foreseen as a solid input for our upcoming discussions.
- 4- Climate finance is fundamental to achieve climate justice.** Without adequate access to climate finance, which is key to complement national efforts, **many of our countries will lag behind in scaling up their adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage efforts**, with implications on biodiversity loss, food insecurity, among other global challenges. **It is therefore crucial to build on the main outcomes of COP27, especially concerning climate finance, and to pave the way to COP28.**
- 5- The Political Declaration should also mobilize action to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in COP15 which is key to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by the end of the decade and achieve the SDGs. Therefore, it has a central role in the political declaration.**

Finally, distinguished co-facilitators, our group would like to stress that our deliberations in preparation and within the process of SDG Summit declaration should not be done in silos. The milestones events of this year are expected to feed into SDG Summit. The SDG Summit and its outcome will provide valuable inputs to the Summit of the Future. It is essential that the Summit of the Future is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs and supports their timely implementation. We will submit in written our detailed contributions in the upcoming stages of this process. Thank you for your attention.