

**Statement of Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the UN, on the first informal
consultations on the political declaration of the SDG Summit
(High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development)**

(February 3, 2023)

Let me start by thanking both of you, the Co-Facilitators, for taking the initiative to conduct informal consultations on the political declaration to be adopted by the SDG Summit. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China.

Dear Co-Chairs,

The world is facing “triple crises”, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate catastrophe and conflicts in different parts of the world.

These multifaceted crises are likely to slow the global economic growth, and the circumstances for the development agenda are to say the least challenging.

In this context, the upcoming SDG Summit and its political declaration have assumed greater significance in order to provide the appropriate high level guidance and decisions in order to make substantive progress towards achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda provides the blueprint for our international development cooperation. It provides a framework for the political declaration as well and I will agree with the remarks given by the USA that we should focus on the means of implementation that is the critical part of what SDG summit would have to achieve.

To act on implementation, we will need to cover key elements in: Financing for SDGs; Climate change; Sustainable infrastructure; International trading and tax system, and; Technology transfer.

Financing for SDGs

The financing is the key. The approaches we would seek to explore would be:

One, a multilateral mechanism on sovereign debt; **Two**, the fulfillment of the ODA target of 0.7 percent; **Three**, the creation of new SDRs linked to the SDGs and the re-channelling of unutilized SDRs; **Four**, the re-capitalization of MDBs and national development banks; **Five**, mechanisms to lower the borrowing costs for developing countries, and; **Six**, mobilization of significantly larger domestic resources including through a fair international system of taxation regime.

Climate Change

On climate change, the declaration should reiterate the full implementation of the climate change agenda and climate commitments in accordance with the principle of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. The pledges made by the developed countries, particularly of US\$100 billion in annual climate finance, should be fulfilled and half of this allocated for climate adaptation. The funding arrangements for “loss and damage” including the establishment of fund for “loss and damage” agreed at COP 27 should be urgently activated and implemented.

Sustainable Infrastructure

The declaration should also reiterate that the transition to a sustainable and carbon neutral global economy will require rapid installation of sustainable infrastructure, including in energy, transportation, housing, manufacturing, agriculture sectors. An estimated investment of \$1 trillion per year is needed for sustainable infrastructure investment in developing countries. We must, therefore, develop these mechanisms, including a role for the UN in promoting such investments.

International Trading System

The international trading system should be restructured to revive export-led growth by developing countries and provide the policy space for industrialization.

Technology Transfer

The declaration should also propose the adoption of a Global technology compact, aligned with the SDGs, through inclusive international negotiations. It should offer preferential access to developing countries to the relevant advanced technologies and end discriminatory measures. Developing countries must also be assisted to bridge the “digital divide”.

Dear Co-Chairs,

Pakistan will engage actively and constructively in the negotiations for the Political Declaration through and with the G77 and China.

I thank you.