



## Remarks by Türkiye

### Informal consultation on 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration

(3 February 2023)

Thank you Madam co-facilitator for giving me the floor.

Thank you Qatar and Ireland for convening this important informal meeting to hear the priorities of member states for the political declaration to be adopted by SDG Summit.

Owing to the overlapping global challenges, the world is not only off-track on almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals, but also hard earned development progress has been reversed.

In this regard, my delegation thinks that the political declaration, among others, should include the following:

-We have to reaffirm the commitment to international solidarity and cooperation to effectively address the urgent global challenges and encourage UN members to put forth ambitious plans. As the UN Secretary-General puts it in striking terms “time is running out and we have a duty to act”. The stakeholders must globally scale up efforts on all fronts.

-By Emphasizing the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, the political declaration should have a holistic approach. The targets should be addressed in an integrated and indivisible manner and harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

-In this regard, it is important to highlight that economic recovery efforts should target a systemic shift towards a more inclusive and sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet.

-In addition, we have to address the pressing global challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste. It should be recognized in the Declaration that special efforts are required at the international level for the utilization of green technologies, as well as for accelerating financial support to developing countries.

Also unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are the root causes of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These crises and related environmental degradation threaten ecosystem functioning, human well-being and achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, SDG12, which aims at ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, resource efficiency, reducing waste and pollution, shaping circular economy and in that regard initiatives on zero waste is of paramount importance.

-We should put strong emphasis on taking urgent action to mitigate food insecurity and save lives. It is appalling that almost 10% of the world population is food insecure in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Let aside eradicating hunger, vulnerable countries are faced with a food security crisis.

-To improve the implementation of SDGs, we should prioritize capacity-building and training, create an enabling environment for public-private partnerships, and invest in necessary technology and infrastructure. We must also foster cooperation and coordination between governments, businesses, non-profits, and individuals to bring about systemic changes that will lead to a better future for all.

-The political declaration needs to underscore the centrality of bridging all digital divides in an inclusive way to identify new growth engines and achieve higher levels of economic productivity and sustainable development with special attention to low income and developing countries. In this respect, the Declaration should highlight the importance of supporting and funding the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the only UN agency dedicated to the LDCs exclusively.

-It also needs to underscore the necessity for strong mechanisms for monitoring and measuring progress, and financing that ensures adequate resources to guarantee success. The targets should be attainable, measurable, reportable and verifiable and should reflect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We support the United Nations' follow-up and review process, led by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) through regular Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).

-In the context of SDG16, the political declaration must underscore combatting racism, xenophobia, discrimination and hate crimes based on religion, including Islamophobia while addressing peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16).

-In addition we should reaffirm our commitment to support the full inclusion of migrants in our recovery efforts, while responding to humanitarian needs and the root causes of displacement. As the number of people forcibly displaced hit record levels, taking refugees into account in development efforts is no longer a choice but a necessity. We should also encourage scaling up the contribution of development assistance to host countries.

-The political declaration should also emphasize strong ownership as a key feature for effective and timely implementation of the SDGs. SDGs should be anchored in national priorities, as the key input for national development plans, strategies and visions.

Thank you.