



# MAJOR GROUPS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

**Statement - Ali Jillani**

**Delivered on 16 March 2023**

## **2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration Consultation**

*Co-Chairs, Excellencies, and Colleagues,*

*I am Ali Jillani speaking on behalf of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders.*

The multidimensionality of the current crises has exacerbated inequalities, exposed shallow public services infrastructure, and questioned our collective ability to respond, in the absence of strong political will to address the systemic barriers. Meanwhile, the Global South continues to be confronted with the decaying socio-economic and ecological systems, policy and fiscal space constraints, illicit financial flows, unfair trade and investment regimes, unscrupulous debt distress, and the insatiable IFI conditionalities, restricting national capacities to adopt people-centered, rights-based, transformative strategies for the SDGs or COVID recovery.

In the face of clear failures, with the entire regions falling behind on all SDGs by 2030, it is high time that we prioritized urgent action on fundamental reforms so the runaway degradations do not set in. We cannot afford to remain half hearted in our pursuit of Agenda 2030, as the structures critical for action are falling apart with the demise of public trust, surging social and politico-economic inequalities, and shrinking democratic spaces, further exacerbating unequal power relations. This is compounded by the crisis in thought-leadership, where the rhetoric of action-oriented and transformative is barely reconciled with the reality; and continues to prioritize consensus over critical considerations even in the decade of action and delivery.

The Political Declaration should clearly commit to alter the business as usual approach, demonstrating clear commitment to ensure equitable financing, technical and technological support for regions, peoples and priorities left behind, because although



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we are half-way there, we are yet nowhere near, as our colleagues at ECE RCEM say, and we cannot afford to let the MOI continue to be MIA - that being Missing In Action.

It is also imperative to address the splits in our critical consciousness; where just the top 5 spenders put over \$1.3 trillion dollars in weapons in 2021 compared to mere \$185 billions for development by all - certainly not in line with our pursuit of policy coherence for Sustainable Development.

Finally, **the essence of partnerships requires broader and meaningful civil society participation parallel with the immediate reversal of corporatocratization of our deliberative processes**, for an inclusive, efficient and responsive multilateralism.

It is upon us today, Excellencies, to ensure that we **DO NOT leave our generations of the future behind** by adopting approaches that prioritize people and the planet over profits!

I thank you, Chair.



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