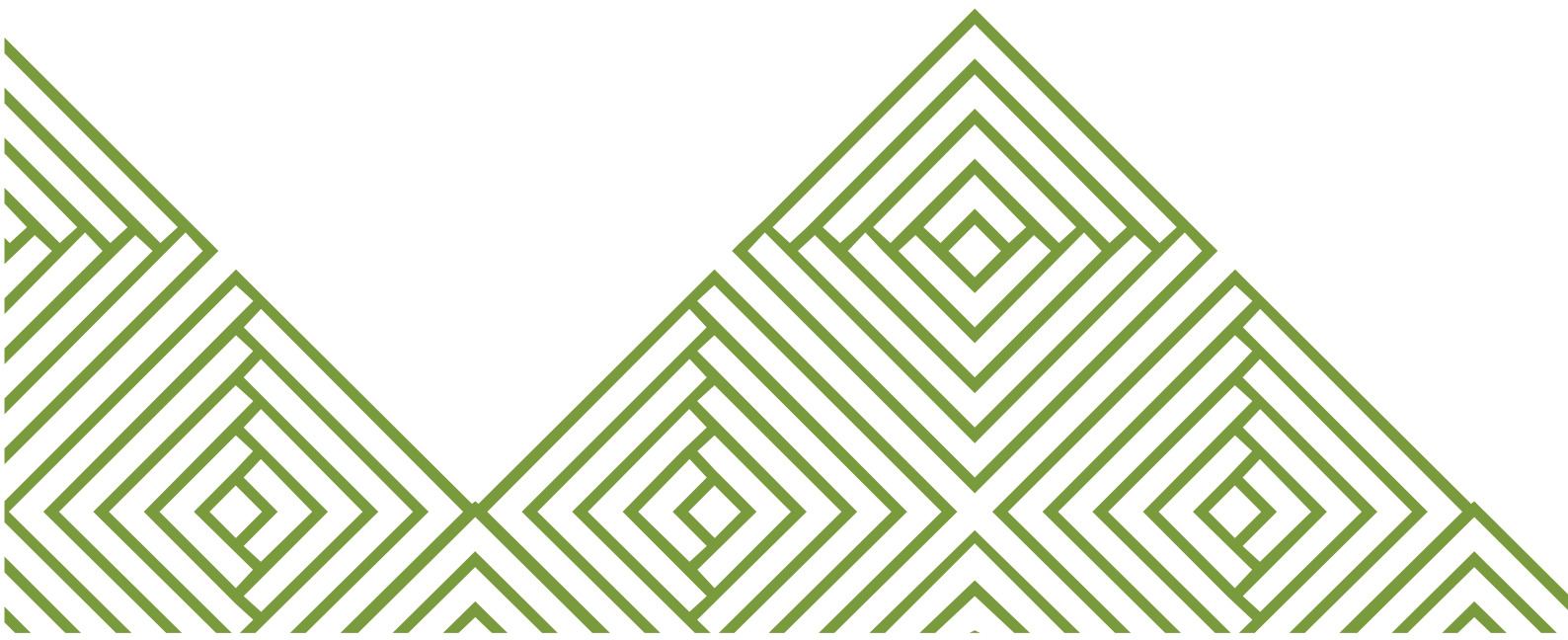


Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia  
and New Zealand (CANZ)  
on the draft elements for the  
SDG Summit Political Declaration

Delivered by: Rachael Pringle, First Secretary,  
New Zealand Permanent Mission

16 March 2023

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Dear Excellencies

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, or CANZ.

Our sincere thanks for the briefing today and for the draft elements paper. We believe we are on the right track and that the paper largely reflects the conversation we collectively has on 3 February. This includes the format and the use of the GSDR.

CANZ appreciates the efforts to keep the 2030 Agenda at the front and centre, including through a reaffirmation of commitment. We welcome the inclusion of human rights throughout the text, noting that the 2030 Agenda is explicitly grounded in human rights and is mutually reinforcing with the international human rights framework.

CANZ also appreciates the clear recognition of the balance between the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda – as we indicated in February this is a priority for CANZ across the text. As part of the balance, we urge caution around proposals to create a hierarchy of Goals, by classifying some Goals as “higher impact”.

We are also looking for balance between international and domestic implementation. Part of the importance of the 2030 Agenda is its application to all countries, with implementation at all levels. We acknowledge the inclusion of a point on implementation in the “Turning our world toward 2030” section, but would like to see the idea mainstreamed throughout the text. It is important also to reference the contributions of civil society and local partnerships.

We welcome the acknowledgement of interlinkages with other processes. As well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we should collectively reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Agreement.

CANZ would also like to see further ongoing processes reflected. For example, CANZ believes it is important to reference the ongoing preparatory processes for the SIDS and LLDC conferences. We should also feed in the work of ECOSOC functional commissions. Reflecting processes should not mean the pre-emption or mandating of entirely new programmes of action.

CANZ emphasises the need to consider the differential effects of these multiple and interlinked crises, and of inequalities. We encourage greater understanding of who is most at risk of being left behind and offer concrete solutions to improve inclusivity. The language we use must recognise diversity.

We note the reversal of gains in gender equality, and would like to see this better reflected in the “Our changed world” segment. We consider that, given the size of the impact not only on women and girls, but also on societal stability and the other SDGS, that gender equality should be added as a major heading in the “turning our world toward 2030”.

Also in the “turning our world toward 2030” section: CANZ would like to see greater recognition of the need to better assess and take into account vulnerabilities, particularly to exogenous shocks, including through a multi-dimensional vulnerability index.

The means of implementation section would be strengthened by including a commitment to mobilization, advocacy and whole of society approaches. These approaches are crucial as the transformative and systemic change required to achieve the SDGs must be understood and managed effectively. Broadening the conversation would also help us avoid the trap of parallel negotiations on financing for development.

Thank you for the inclusion of a point on recognising positive progress, which CANZ had raised at the last meeting. We consider that this could include reference to actions taken now which will have a positive future impacts, for example, national determined contributions. Our aim in referencing these is to encourage continued momentum.

Finally, CANZ would like to have a clearer understanding of the call to strengthen the HLPF. What action is intended under this heading?

Thank you.