

Dear co-facilitators,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Let me first thank you both, your teams and the Secretariat for this elements paper, which provides an excellent start for the negotiations.

Some parts need strengthening because this Declaration will be how our Heads of State and Government give vision and direction for the next four years. The Political Declaration is also the *de facto* mid-point check of the 2030 Agenda, so it is crucially important to give concrete recommendations on what needs to be done, especially in the current geopolitical situation.

Well-crafted policies and interventions are needed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the acceleration towards the SDGs. Political, technological, financial, institutional and behavioral innovations are required to align efforts by all stakeholders towards a sustainable future for all.

Related UN processes that should be considered include the Food Systems Summit and Stocktaking Moment, Ocean Conference, UNFCCC COP 27 on Climate Change, UNCBD COP 15 on Biodiversity, Water Conference and UNEA 5. The lessons from the VNRs, the peer learning and integrative nature of the HLPFs, and the preparations for the Summit of the Future, including the Declaration on Future Generations, should also be addressed.

In **Our shared resolve** we need to

- Be more concrete in describing the multiple crises from COVID and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine with its impacts on human lives, energy and food security, to the longstanding triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;
- Address other relevant multilateral agreements apart from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- Mention principles of the 2030 Agenda, foremost leaving no one behind but also the link between peace, development and human rights, the commitment to today's and future generations, and the need for strong partnerships, including with youth, civil society, private sector and academia.

For the section **Our Changed World**, the focus should not only be negative or alarmist, it should also include lessons learned and opportunities to strengthen resilience and accelerate SDGs implementation. For example, how lessons learned from reduction of carbon footprint during COVID can be used in post-COVID times.

More concretely:

- Stressing that compounding crises have reversed SDG gains and have had a negative impact on poverty, gender equality and inclusion among others that have been mentioned;
- Emphasizing the urgency of addressing the triple planetary crisis;
- Determining adequate resource mobilization and allocation to the desired objectives;
- Highlighting debt vulnerabilities, the increase of the SDG financing gap and its detrimental consequences impeding the needed investments for the implementation of the 2030 agenda;
- Securing financing for developing countries to address the multiplying negative effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, through additional and innovative sources of finance;
- Reflecting the important role of resident coordinators and welcoming the work of the UN system, but also noting the importance of a more networked, inclusive, and effective UN for SDG acceleration.

The last section ***Turning our World toward 2030*** should avoid repetitions from the previous ones and be truly operational. One option is to focus on the six entry points and five levers as identified in the Global Sustainable Development Report.

The section should emphasize the interlinkages between the different SDGs, include concrete recommendations to implement the principles of the 2030 Agenda, and made the SDG Summit a real “implementation summit”.

There should be more emphasis on:

- Ensuring the respect, promotion and fulfilment of human rights and commitment to building and sustaining peaceful and just societies, abiding to the principle of Leaving No One Behind, including for future generations;
- Raising ambition to address biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, water stress, unsustainable consumption and production. Emphasizing the connection between the preservation of natural livelihoods and ecosystems with development, poverty, human rights, women's rights, pandemic prevention and resilience;
- Looking at enablers of SDG acceleration such as advancing gender equality and taking advantage of the digital transformation, by maximizing its potential for financial inclusion, closing the digital divide including the gender digital divide, ensuring open, free and

secure digital spaces while reducing disinformation and contributing to a global code of conduct for the integrity of public information;

- Endorsing innovative policy packages that include integrated, coherent and future proof policy interventions that are truly transformative, achieving multiple targets at once, for more speed and scale. These should be based on data, evidence and scientific inputs (like the GSDR), and duly consider new technologies, like space technologies and applications;
- Calling to develop or revise with all stakeholders, national SDG strategies to be truly transformative, inclusive and coherent, while countering harmful policies and practices;
- Bridging the SDG financing gap, using the momentum of the *Summit for a New Global Financial Pact* noting progress on MDB Reform and Global Public Goods. Encouraging all stakeholders to increase the level of ambition in resource mobilization for the SDGs, strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable investments and delivering on commitments on international development cooperation. Noting that nonfinancial means of implementation, that are also covered by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda play an important role for fulfilling the 2030 Agenda;
- Welcoming efforts to re-evaluate measures of success beyond traditional GDP yardsticks to better serve people and the planet;
- Stressing a risk-informed approach to sustainable development and a need to build resilient infrastructure;
- Underlining the importance of meaningful youth participation and intergenerational equity.

Let me conclude by assuring you, co-facilitators, of the European Union's continuous support to you and to this process. We stand with you ready to work collaboratively to achieve a visionary and action oriented political declaration worth of the adoption by our Heads of State and Government.

Thank you.