

Israel's remarks on the Co-Facilitators' elements paper for the consultations on the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit

Thank you, Madam/Mr. co-facilitator,

We wish to thank you for your work and for sharing the elements paper with us.

We join others in reiterating the urgency and need for the SDG Summit to be a transformative moment, reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and reinvigorating our efforts to achieve the SDGs.

We agree with the call for a concise, action-oriented, transformative and ambitious document and believe the draft elements paper serves as a good basis for the discussions. We also wish to emphasize the importance of a consensual document, building on lessons learnt and looking ambitiously into the future.

We agree that the declaration should acknowledge the challenging global context, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic along with the multiple interlinked global crises, and their impact on the progress made. At the same time, we must be clear that we were not on track even before, that we do not have time to waste and that we must take concrete and bold action now.

With respect to the third part of the concept paper - Turning Our World toward 2030 - we support many of the proposed focus areas, including the urgent need to address inequalities. We should acknowledge that sustainable development would be impossible without gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We should commit to the full, equal and meaningful engagement of women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, and those in vulnerable situations, in every aspect of life. We also agree that we must advance inclusive and sustained economic growth, and in that respect wish to emphasize the contribution of decent work for all, support for Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises and their formalization and harnessing the potential of digital technologies.

In our view, two important elements are missing from the current paper. First is a strong commitment to ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education for all**, including through providing lifelong learning and vocational skills, access to education technologies and reducing inequalities in education systems. We must ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive, healthy and sustainable societies. Second, we hope to see a strong call for achieving **universal health coverage and quality health care**, strengthening health systems at the global, local and national levels and ensuring our preparedness and coordinated response for future health emergencies.

We believe that partnerships are key, and that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda must be a shared effort. Only by bringing together the knowledge, means and abilities of governments at all levels, along with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia, the scientific community and youth, we can make the achievement of the SDGs a reality.

We are looking forward to continue our work on the political declaration and we assure you of Israel's constructive engagement throughout the process.

Thank you