



77^{ème} Session de l'Assemblée générale

Informal consultations on the political declaration of the SDG Summit (the high-level political forum on sustainable development, meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly)

Elements Paper – General Comments

New York, le 16 mars 2023

Déclaration de la Suisse

We thank the co-facilitators for the preparation of this substantive elements paper which provides an excellent basis for our further work on the political declaration for the SDG Summit.

We welcome, in particular, the overall approach to aim for an ambitious, yet concise document. We look favourably on the proposed structure and broad content of the declaration.

Let me also offer a few specific remarks:

General remarks

- Switzerland appreciates that the draft elements paper makes reference to the three dimensions of sustainable development, and we believe it is important that the declaration - overall - be balanced in that sense.
- The declaration should of course identify those areas, in which accelerated action is needed urgently. At the same time, it is also a

moment to take stock and recall the progress that has been achieved thus far. We welcome, therefore, the intention to reference the upcoming SDG Progress Report, but would also call on you to draw on the Global Sustainable Development Report which will provide significant insight from a scientific perspective.

Context

- In recalling the general context, we support the references to conflict and multiple crises that significantly impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. That said, it would be important to underline the inter-linked nature of these crises too.
- With regards to negative trends that require urgent action, we suggest to highlight in particular areas such as poverty, inequality, including gender inequality, education, as well as food and nutrition insecurity.
- Specifically on the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to also note how progress has been hampered with regards to gender equality as well as the respect of human rights.
- We support the mentioning of interlinkages between poverty and the threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. However, the text should also refer to the critical issue of pollution, thus mentioning all three planetary crises.

Action

- Concerning action, we appreciate that the paper highlights the importance of partnerships at various levels, and suggest to also reference local partnerships specifically. National implementation, in our view, should build on a whole-of-society approach.
- We strongly support mentioning the role of the UN development system as well as the reform thereof, which is critical in enabling the UNDS in delivering integrated solutions in light of and response to multiple and interlinked crises.
- On financing for development, we concur with the proposal to operate with a placeholder until negotiations on the Outcome Document of the FfD-Forum have been concluded. We do note, however, that issues on mobilization of domestic resources as well as private sector engagement are key issues we believe should be highlighted.
- Moreover, while we recognize the importance of climate finance, as listed in the paper, we believe a broader approach referring to environment finance would be more appropriate.
- And lastly, we welcome that the paper recognize the importance of science and data. We believe that the declaration should include forward-looking and bold commitments to invest in statistics and data as well as anticipatory capacities.

We will submit more detailed remarks in writing.

Thank you.