



Organizing Partner:

Jessica Bridgers
NGO Major Group
+1 505 301 7233

jessica.bridgers@wfa.org

1. General Comments on structure

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Elements Paper and we appreciate the open and transparent approach that has been adopted by the co-facilitators.

Since the last SDG Summit the global situation has become even more challenging, with millions of people facing life threatening challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, falling into poverty, the increase in climate related disasters, world economic stagnation and the rise in armed conflict and humanitarian crises.

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the world is facing multiple and interlocking crises. While we welcome the ambition of Member States to build from the 2019 Declaration, we strongly urge you to push for transformative action in all of society and to move beyond re-affirmations. We further encourage you to set bold steps for social, environmental and economic well-being and demonstrate leadership for implementation and resourcing at this critical time.

2. Our Shared Resolve

The Political Declaration for this year's SDG Summit must highlight the need for real and urgent action, and must **set out practical steps and resources to enable the full realization of the 2030 Agenda**. This must include the incorporation of policies and actions into national plans and budgets. The timing of the SDG Summit in September 2023 could also provide an opportunity to ensure that the delivery of the SDGs is closely tied with other key frameworks including human rights, environment and financing agreements.

We call on you to raise the ambition on the pledge to Leave No One Behind. Many populations are being pushed further behind, from Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon to refugees in the MENA region, those fleeing conflict in Ukraine and many other parts of the world. We underscore the urgent need for action and call for commitment to focus on the reversal of negative trends, in particular increasing support for women's rights and gender equality, inclusion of vulnerable communities, the immediate acceleration of SDG implementation and on breakthroughs that steer towards transformative and systemic change, while also addressing the gaps and challenges.



We urge you to include clear commitments in terms of guaranteeing human rights, protecting civil liberties, and a renewed pledge to reach those furthest behind first. We also believe that there can be no future for people without a future for all other life forms on our planet. There must be a renewed commitment to guarantee protection for wildlife and other living species in our ecosystems on land and underwater. We must learn to coexist in our shared home.

3. Our Changed World

Member States should acknowledge that most of the multiple crises that we face today (climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, rising inequalities, continued zoonotic disease spillover risk, etc.) have their roots in an economic system that prioritizes GDP growth and short-term profit to the detriment of the long term wellbeing of all people, animals and the planet.

Commitment to address the root causes of societal and environmental challenges in an equitable manner is essential, and can be accomplished by transforming unsustainable production and consumption patterns, including through a sustainable food systems transition, reducing overconsumption, and transitioning to deforestation-free and conversion-free trade and supply chains.

We call for the Declaration to unlock additional funding for community-led initiatives. The funding gap has been highlighted many times over recent years. However, inequalities have grown at unprecedented rates, so we recommend that you consider new ways to release funding, including clear steps to deliver the commitment to 0.7% ODA from donor countries.

Many countries are also struggling with unsustainable debt and are in danger of cutting vital services just at a time when these are most needed to shape a just recovery, so the question of equitable finance for implementation must be central to the overall Declaration.

Furthermore, pledges for new funds must be guaranteed in such a way that truly reaches frontline communities. We call for specific funding commitments to establish innovative rights-based and equitable finance mechanisms to be allocated directly to those who are being left behind.

Finally, while recognising the importance of private sector engagement for the SDGs, calls for more transparency and credibility of corporate commitments have been growing. We echo the call of the UN Secretary General to implement corporate climate and SDG pledges and ensure their credibility and integrity.



4. Turning Our World toward 2030

We welcome the reference to accelerating implementation at all levels and would like to stress the importance of meaningful monitoring and accountability for all stakeholders, including the private sector and private finance. As a whole of society's agenda, private sector commitments to the SDGs need to be accompanied by meaningful action and regular assessment of progress, halting ambiguity and SDG-washing. Evidence on progress needs to become more insightful to develop a complete picture on where the world stands on the SDGs.

We suggest adding the UNSG's recommendation in Our Common Agenda to 'move beyond GDP': an output of the Summit should be a commitment to elaborate a concrete action plan to transform our economic systems so that they first serve the wellbeing of people, animals and the planet. Furthermore, we need to move to a human rights-based, wellbeing economy, which values and supports the work of caring for each other and for nature. Care must become a human right, including the right to care and right to be cared for. Lastly, Member States should be encouraged to adopt the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment into national legislation.

It is essential that targeted action is taken to support those who are most affected by recent and former crises. Member States must reiterate the importance of preventing future pandemics, utilizing a One Health approach. The One Health approach is essential to Leaving No One Behind, as prevention of pandemics is the only way to equitably manage health crises which in turn threaten the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Political Declaration should aim to accelerate the momentum on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the agreement under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. These should be welcomed as critical to achieving the SDGs and the declaration could encourage the necessary steps by Member States to accelerate the coming into force of the treaty. We further call for the recognition of these two agreements as the new roadmaps for the biodiversity-related and biodiversity-dependent SDGs targets whose timeline lapsed in 2020. Lastly, the declaration should call for a commitment to reach agreement on a global legally binding instrument to achieve a plastic pollution free planet.

Finally, we urge the UN system and Member States to include all stakeholders at the international, national, and local levels in the planning and implementation of public policies and actions toward the 2030 Agenda. The exchange of best practices, financing for development, and collaboration between all will accelerate the progress of the 17 SDGs in the whole world. Together we can turn our world towards 2030.