

**STATEMENT**  
**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SDG SUMMIT POLITICAL DECLARATION**  
MAY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 10:00am, Trusteeship Council

*No time limit was established.*

Thank you, Your Excellency.

Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Morocco, Tunisia, Uruguay and my own country, Colombia, align with the statement delivered by Cuba, on behalf of the G77 and China, and would like to add the following in their national capacities.

We would like to express our appreciation to the co-facilitators for preparing an ambitious Zero-Draft of the Political Declaration as the basis for our discussions. Without a doubt, the document references many critical issues that require urgent action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, we would like to remind the UN membership that transformative change is impossible without explicit integration of the needs of half the world's population into the required measures. Namely, ensuring the empowerment of all women and girls and gender equality is fundamental to safeguard the 2030 Agenda. We believe that the SDG Summit provides a crucial opportunity to agree on concrete and meaningful high-level commitments to achieve this purpose.

While we welcome the language included in the Zero Draft on this matter, we must recognize that we are not in 2015 and that women and girls around the world have seen their situation worsen in many aspects of their lives, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, during the following months we will dedicate our efforts to strengthen the document from a gender perspective, aiming to achieve a Political Declaration through which Member States:

1. Call for the gender transformative implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through gender-responsive budgeting and financing.
2. Acknowledge the need to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of all women and girls in all decision-making processes.
3. Commit to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and girls.
4. And take concrete action to safeguard the realization and enjoyment of their human rights offline and online.

Your Excellency,

The success of the Midterm Review of the 2030 Agenda will depend on our political will to recommit to this ambitious roadmap and to its timeline.

Given the multiple crises that exist in the world and the significant regressions we have experienced, we cannot afford to implement the Agenda during the next seven years at the same pace. People from across the globe are demanding that our ambition rise to the level of the current situation. In particular, women and girls expect us to answer their long overdue calls. We cannot fall short of such claims. We must deliver.

I appreciate your attention.