

**Draft Statement for Her Excellency Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett,  
Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations (UN)  
For the first informal consultation on the Zero Draft of the political  
declaration to be adopted by the SDG Summit  
16 May 2023  
10:00am**

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar,  
H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland, Co-facilitators  
of this process.

Dear Co-facilitators, Excellencies and colleagues,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished  
delegates of Cuba and Samoa on behalf of the G77 and China and AOSIS,  
respectively. I wish to add a few comments in my national capacity.

At the outset we wish to join in thanking the co-facilitators for their efforts. We  
are of the view that the zero draft of the political declaration presents a good  
basis for us to advance these discussions, and the negotiation process should be  
used to strengthen the text.

We are all in agreement that the implementation of the 2030 agenda and  
delivering on its commitments must be our main focus. This is why the SDG  
Summit will be the fulcrum of this year's High-Level Week. It is therefore  
critical that the Declaration addresses the major challenges, especially since  
only 12 percent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets are on track. I  
wish to highlight a few that are of utmost importance to my delegation.

1. We welcome the reference to the **restructuring of the international financial architecture** to make it more fit for purpose to deal with the challenges faced by developing countries. The SDG

stimulus to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress are good proposals which can be strengthened and made more actionable.

2. The issue of **food insecurity and hunger** should be one of the foremost challenges to be addressed. The SDG Progress report indicates that the progress made has been reversed and hunger is back at 2005 levels. We are pleased that the Political Declaration has referenced the “resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere,” but we would like to see more actionable proposals to get us back on track.
3. On **climate change**, a lot can be said. I wish to highlight the urgent need for the delivery of the annual \$100 billion dollar commitment by developed countries which has eluded its 2020 deadline. Developing countries cannot afford to wait any longer for this commitment to be met. We are all aware that the climate crisis is severely impacting several of the SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 agenda.
4. Finally, an important point for my delegation is the **incorporation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** into this process to assist in proving context and rational for granting financing to implement the 2030 agenda, especially for the most vulnerable. We are of the view that once finalized and agreed, the index will be a useful tool. In this regard, there should be some acknowledgement and mention of it in this text as a tool to advance the “going beyond GDP” discussion.

I once again congratulate the co-facilitators for a very good zero draft and I look forward to working with you all to have it strengthened.

I thank you.