

Statement MGOS CM Informals SDG Summit Political Declaration

Good morning,

My name is Luíza Veado, and I am one of the organizing partners of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.

I would like to start by thanking the Co-Facilitators' commitment to maintaining the participation of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders in consultations, like in prior years, to ensure that the Political Declaration is an action-oriented, transformative, and ambitious document that recognizes the importance of civil society participation in domestic, regional and international levels in order to achieve the SDGs.

We support your call that the 2030 Agenda is universal in nature, its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, and they should be implemented following a human rights-based approach. The current text streamlines a lot of important issues at the halfway mark of the Agenda 2030. However, we want to remind everyone that we are halfway there but nowhere near.

We also welcome the commitment to reaching the furthest behind first. However, we note with concern that concrete actions toward transformative shifts do not adequately reflect the level of detail required to fulfill global commitments to an intersectional approach and move away from business as usual. This is the time for concrete and courageous actions that go beyond references.

We appreciate the inclusion of gender mainstreaming and the importance of including all women. Still, there is a need to include those who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which are the furthest left behind. We also miss a mention of gender-based violence and its impact around the world.

We call for the maintenance of last year's agreed language in the HLPF political declaration on the need "to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity."

In relation to data collection, there is agreed language on listings, including gender-disaggregated data from the SDGs indicator 17.18. I would also like to call for the usage of the agreed listing in Resolution A/RES/76/176, which is more comprehensive than the one we see on the Zero Draft. We would also like to remind you that agreed language should be the floor and not the ceiling for all the commitments and advances we want to see in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and this Political Declaration.

We also take this opportunity to reiterate the role that civil society and representative organizations play and urge the United Nations and member States to ensure that their meaningful participation continues to be supported, including through adequate budgets.

The Major Groups and Other Stakeholders have been key drivers to change and key implementers and funders of the SDGs. We continue to be committed to supporting and promoting bold, ambitious, and transformative actions of all Member States and other actors while working alongside you in action for people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership.

Good morning, I am Norine Kennedy, co-focal point of the Business and Industry Major Group. We appreciate the opportunity to speak, and would like to begin by associating with the previous statement by Luiza.

We encourage you to reflect the importance of practical, meaningful and inclusive multilateralism as essential to accelerate implementation in the declaration. What do those adjectives mean? The document should regard stakeholders, including the private sector, as a resource to inform and support governments and IGOs. All hands on deck are needed to change direction to reach the SDGs.

We hope the discussions in this group will result in a document that reflects the substantive contributions of all stakeholders, notably business, in the key areas of science and innovation, sustainability and solidarity that are so catalytic to SDG delivery. Those themes first flagged by the PGA are at the heart of accelerating action and leaving no-one behind across every one of the 17 SDGs.

We wish to conclude by bringing to your attention what might seem like a statement of the obvious: there is more to the private sector than large MNEs. We encourage you to explicitly highlight the necessity of involving SMEs from the global south, especially in LDCs, via partnerships for jobs, skills, capacity building towards sustainable resilient graduation in the least developed countries, and for shared and inclusive recovery in the developing world.

Thank you for including us and for your consideration.