

## **ECE RCEM Comments on the 2023 'Revised Zero Draft of the Political Declaration'**

**The ECE-RCEM** Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism is a platform with official status of MGoS aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Economic Commission for Europe are heard in all stages of follow up and review of the SDG implementation.

Our suggested inserts reflect the key concerns of the ECE RCEM. A mere 21 of global 167 indicators of the SDGs are on track in our region. We are 'halfway there, but no where near.' We see shrinking civic space, authoritarianism, violence against civil society and mortal dangers faced by human right defenders. We see and experience the impact of war being conducted in our region. We see violations of the right of refugees and migrants on a daily basis with the despair this brings; and the kindness of many who refuse to follow the branding of those seeking a better and more secure life as 'invaders'. Ours is a region of a growing demographic of the over 65s, with consequent interdependence with younger age groups, but one which has not yet put in place guarantees for young and old of secure, affordable and healthy housing, universal health access, universal access to education and universal access to social protection. Our region is not protecting its biodiversity, despite the efforts of many to save it. Much more effort is needed to ensure SDG and climate related financing. Promotion of, respect for and compliance with human rights and the guarantees of fundamental freedoms must be at the forefront of government and civil society efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030. There is much to do.

### **Additional wording included in red bold type:**

Para 8: We commit to bold, ambitious, accelerated and transformative actions, anchored in **human rights**, international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels

Para 9: We will devote ourselves collectively to the pursuit of sustainable development including through international cooperation, **commitment to accountability** and partnership to strengthen coordination and global governance for the common future of present and coming generations.

Para 12: to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls **across their lifecourse** ...We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities **of all ages**

Para 15: access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage, **affordable and** quality health care, **universal** social protection

Para 20: women, youth, **refugees, migrants**, local communities, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities and older persons

Para 36: through **universal** social protection systems and universal health coverage.

Para 37: (f) We will ensure good-health and well-being for all, achieving universal health coverage and leaving no-one behind. **We commit to have national plans and policies to achieve universal social protection in place in all countries by 2030, supported by a global technical and financial mechanism, to enable all countries, including all in the global south, to ensure implementation of their plans'**

**Para 37 t (ii) We commit to a fourth international conference on financing for development as a legitimate space to take decisions on increased mobilization of resources for the SDGs as well as necessary reforms to the international financial architecture, including institutional reforms.**