

**Revised Zero Draft of the  
Political Declaration to be adopted at the  
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF),  
under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023**

**I. Our shared commitment**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high representatives, have met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit,<sup>1</sup> to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and uphold all principles enshrined in it. The 2030 Agenda remains our overarching roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. We will act with urgency to realize its vision as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind. We will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.
3. We emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
4. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is universal in nature and that its Goals and targets are comprehensive, far-reaching, people-centered, indivisible and interlinked, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, in an integrated manner. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda and its Goals seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
5. We also reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. We are committed to its full implementation which is critical for the realization of the SDGs and their targets and to this end welcome the organization of the 2023 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development back-to-back with the SDG Summit.
6. The achievement of the SDGs is in peril. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that only 12 per cent of the SDGs are on track and 30 per cent remain unchanged or below the 2015 baseline. The progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed. Our world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, and the impacts of climate change more pronounced. This has led to increased inequality underpinned by weakened international solidarity and a shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.
7. We remain hopeful, given that our world, its people, and the United Nations have a history of resilience and overcoming challenges. Our actions must match the magnitude and scope of the crises affecting our world. This situation calls for the world to redouble our efforts and deliver a breakthrough to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> High-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit).

8. We commit to bold, ambitious, accelerated and transformative actions, anchored in international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels. We will promote a systemic shift towards a more inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world for people and planet, for present and future generations.
9. We will devote ourselves collectively to the pursuit of sustainable development including through international cooperation and partnership to strengthen coordination and global governance for the common future of present and coming generations.
10. We are concerned about the persistent impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. We must strengthen international cooperation for the poorest and most vulnerable countries to help them recover from the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen pandemic preparedness, prevention and response.
11. We recognize the specific challenges facing all developing countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries in pursuing sustainable development.
12. We remain resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We also remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent [education and](#) work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. We commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.
13. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities. We will ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course without discrimination. We also resolve to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
14. We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech at all levels, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity.
15. We reaffirm our resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to [local public services](#), inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage, quality health care, social protection, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.
16. We commit to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserving and sustainably using our planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable lifestyles, and sustainable consumption and production, to reversing the trends of environmental degradation, to promoting resilience, to reducing disaster risk, and to halting ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

17. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. We reaffirm the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.
18. The 2030 Agenda remains our commitment to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential, as critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations.
19. We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our goals and commitments under the 2030 Agenda.
20. We commit to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including local and regional governments, parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples, research institutes, children, civil society, the private sector, academia, women, youth, local communities, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities and older persons, recognizing the important contribution they can make to the 2030 Agenda.

## **II. Our changed world - Progress and remaining gaps and challenges**

21. Our world has changed drastically since the first SDG Summit in 2019 and since we adopted the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The world was already off track in achieving the majority of the SDGs before the COVID-19 pandemic. Without immediate course correction and acceleration of progress toward achieving the SDGs, our world is destined to face continued poverty, prolonged periods of crisis and growing uncertainty.
22. We are concerned about the persistent and long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, continued poverty and widening inequalities, and the multiple interlinked crises that are pushing our world to the brink, particularly in developing countries and for the poorest and most marginalized. Climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution, including plastic, air, and chemical pollution, threaten planet and people. Irregular migration and forced displacement, the cost-of-living crisis, water related challenges, food security and nutrition, financial and energy crises, and the growing impact of natural disasters are increasing humanitarian needs and derailing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
23. In many parts of the world armed conflicts and instability have endured or intensified, and natural disasters have become more frequent and intense, causing untold human suffering and undermining the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our ability to prevent and resolve conflicts and build resilient, peaceful, just and inclusive societies has often been fragmented and insufficient.
24. We acknowledge that the cascading global crises have highlighted and exacerbated existing gender inequality, such as unequal access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities.
25. We take note with appreciation the Secretary-General's special edition progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Sustainable Development Report, including its evidenced-based approach to evaluate progress to date towards the SDGs.
26. We recognize the positive role and contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities.

27. We note with appreciation the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved.
28. In the face of the multiple and interlinked global crises, we must meet the moment and embrace change by taking immediate measures to scale up efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including through development cooperation, SDG investments, reforming the international financial architecture, enhancing macroeconomic policy cooperation and implementing actions to accelerate sustainable development, in particular in support of developing countries. We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts towards an SDG stimulus to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need.
29. We are deeply concerned by the marked increase of the estimated SDG financing gap and recognize the urgency of increasing predictable, responsible and sustainable development finance to developing countries.
30. We note that there has been positive progress in a limited number of areas. We recognize the efforts of countries and stakeholders at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic produced valuable lessons in health, science, technology, and innovation and digital transformation for sustainable development.
31. We are encouraged by the progress achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014-2024, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS 2014-2024, and call upon the international community to take the opportunity of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs and the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States to identify and address the key priority issues of LLDCs and SIDS respectively, as well as to forge genuine and durable partnerships, including financial support, that will accelerate the implementation of their respective sustainable development blueprints. Additionally, we welcome the Doha political declaration, and the commitments made towards the timely and full implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031.
32. We acknowledge the common purpose that has united governments, the UN system, civil society, the private sector, parliaments, local [authorities and regional governments](#), academia and other stakeholders to deliver on the 2030 Agenda including through the localization of SDGs.
33. We welcome the efforts of the UN development system to implement the reforms championed by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the General Assembly, to better support developing countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
34. We recognize that the Voluntary National Reviews have generated valuable lessons learned and have helped countries monitor progress and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies. We also recognize that the Voluntary Local Reviews and the Voluntary Subnational Reviews complement national processes.

### **III. Call to action – turning our world towards 2030**

35. We commit to taking continuous, fundamental, transformative and urgent actions at all levels and by all stakeholders to overcome the crises and obstacles facing our world. We commit to taking the actions necessary to reverse declines and accelerate progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda and implement the

SDGs. We will take comprehensive and targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, by 2030.

36. We commit to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all by focusing our policies and actions on the poorest and most vulnerable. We will endeavour to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first. People who are in vulnerable situations must be protected and empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, women and girls, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic and racial minorities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. We intend to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We will take action to combat inequalities within and among countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequality, including through social protection systems and universal health coverage. We look forward to convening a world social summit in 2025 to give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
37. We are determined to make all efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target year of 2030. To this end, we commit to:
  - a) We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social, and economic barriers to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, including those with disabilities, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights and in this regard we commit to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces both in person and in digital contexts, such as sexual and gender-based violence, and call for women's full access to justice and effective legal remedies.
  - b) We will continue increasing investment in inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, education for sustainable development, digital technologies for education, skills enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, including education in emergencies and teachers' continuing professional development. We will address barriers to girls' education, gender and disability gaps and promote gender equality in and through education and safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being, and we take note of the 2022 United Nations Transforming Education Summit.
  - c) We will continue to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization. We will expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy by building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and aim to improve digital literacy including information and media literacy. We will leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to strengthen social protection systems. We commit to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries and reaffirm that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. We look forward to the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - d) We will accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods, the transition to sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, and by promoting safe, healthy and diversified diets and consumption practices. We commit to keep trade channels and markets open for the movement of food, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs and outputs.

- e) We will address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation from a global water crisis to a world where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. We note the importance of the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 and the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- f) We will ensure good-health and well-being for all, achieving universal health coverage and leaving no-one behind.
- g) We will take steps to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including through enhanced international cooperation to assist developing countries. We will increase substantially the share of renewable and clean energy.
- h) We commit to implementing the calls to action from the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels and to accelerating progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, while acknowledging that some of the calls to action will require capacity building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries.
- i) We will work with urgency through the UNFCCC and its COPs, including the upcoming COPs, to accelerate our actions to address climate change. We will implement the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup> and all agreed outcomes of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change<sup>3</sup>, conscious of the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agreement, including across mitigation and adaptation efforts. We urge developed country parties to fully deliver on the goal of 100 billion United States dollars urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges. We welcome the outcomes of COP-27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh, including the decision on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage.
- j) We will conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife. We will take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation. We commit to swiftly implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Fund, and will progressively take the necessary steps to close the \$700 billion biodiversity finance gap, and urge developed countries to make significant progress towards the \$30 billion financial target in the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- k) We commit to continue urgent efforts to implement the strategic objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, affirming that combating desertification, land degradation, deforestation, drought and floods, as well as sand and dust storms, and achieving land degradation

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

neutrality are essential and have emerged as a pathway to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

- l) We will decisively and urgently mobilize action for sustainable ocean management, recognizing the central role of a healthy, productive and resilient ocean. We commit to an integrated and coordinated approach to conserve, protect and restore the ocean, its ecosystems and its biodiversity. We emphasize that our actions should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.
- m) We will support the global efforts to address plastic pollution, and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment by 2024.
- n) We commit to responsibly use science, technology, and innovation, including space technology and applications, as drivers of sustainable development and to build the capacities necessary for sustainable transformations. We will take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology, and innovation and address the major structural impediments to accessing new and emerging technologies including through promoting access to open science, affordable technology, research and development, and through partnerships. We aim to increase funding for SDG-related research and innovation and build capacity in all regions to contribute to and benefit from this research. We will seek to better realize the benefits and address the challenges of artificial intelligence. We undertake to increase the use of science and scientific evidence in policymaking.
- o) We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divide, including the gender divide, and providing financial and technical support and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- o)p) We recognize that culture (intercultural dialogue, heritage in all forms, cultural diversity, creativity, transmission of knowledge) remains undervalued and underutilized in the push for SDG progress. We will act to analyze the role of culture as a global public good, including greater consideration of culture's role in supporting SDG achievement now, and the analysis of a potential stand-alone Culture Goal post-2030
- p)q) We pledge to take action to strengthen international, national and subnational data systems efforts to collect high quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on SDG progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing domestic financing for data and statistics, and embracing new data sources and innovative approaches.
- q)r) We will continue to integrate the SDGs into our national policy frameworks and develop national plans for transformative and accelerated action. We commit to empower and support local and regional governments and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda and to bolster local action and will make

implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs a central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms. We will further localize the SDGs and advance integrated planning ~~at local and sub-national levels~~ with local and regional governments. We recognize their critical role in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage all relevant actors to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development and localization of the Goals, including through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, acknowledging the role and responsibility of parliaments. We encourage decentralized actions to implement the SDGs.



¶s) Recognizing the need for an SDG stimulus, we commit to accelerate the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to take further actions to scale up financing for sustainable development, and provide means of implementation for developing countries, including the following:

- i. We will ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, decentralized cooperation, strengthening the capacity to mobilize domestic resources and private sector investment in order to provide adequate and predictable means of implementation for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and to implement programmes and policies to create decent jobs, including through the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.
- ii. We urge development partners to scale up and fulfill their ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries.
- iii. We call for improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need. We recognize the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability. Strengthened multilateral coordination by all creditors is needed to address the deteriorating debt situation.
- iv. We call for scaling up debt for SDGs swaps, including debt for climate and nature, education, and debt for food security swaps, as appropriate, while recognizing debt swaps cannot replace broader debt treatments in unsustainable debt situations, to allow developing countries to use debt service payments for investments in sustainable development.
- v. We recommit to preventing and combating illicit financial flows and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on assets return and recovery.
- vi. We call for an urgent re-channeling of unutilized Special Drawing Rights to countries most in need, including through Multilateral Development Banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of Special Drawing Rights.
- vii. We note the importance of the international financial architecture, business models and financing capacities being more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, resilient and sustainable, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting, and global economic governance. We commit to continue to engage in inclusive inter-governmental discussions on the reform of IFIs taking into account the current and ongoing initiatives.
- viii. We urge MDBs to bring forward actions to mobilize and provide additional financing within their mandates to support developing countries to achieve the SDGs. We support MDB reform efforts and call for tangible progress in this regard and encourage dialogue between MDBs and other financial institutions.
- ix. We recommit to the promotion of a rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core,

as well as meaningful trade liberalization. We underscore that the multilateral trading system should contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome the commitment of WTO members to work towards the necessary reform of the organization, with the aim of improving all its functions and effectively addressing the challenges facing global trade.

- x. We commit to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalization of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and, in this regard, confirm our political commitment to value what counts and explore measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation.
  - xi. We encourage the international community to consider multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential use of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance.
  - xii. We commit to convening a fourth international conference on financing for development in 2025.
38. We recognize that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response. We renew our commitment to effective and inclusive multilateralism and international cooperation, to find new ways of working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We further commit to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respecting international law, the rule of law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to self-determination of peoples and the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.
39. We commit to fully support the UN development system, including the RC system and the Joint SDG Fund, to deliver better in support of programme countries and their efforts implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. We support the United Nations playing a central and coordinating role in international development cooperation.
40. We commit to using the review of the high-level political forum at the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly to further strengthen the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, harnessing data to track progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, strengthening analysis of the interlinkages across the Goals and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.
41. We look forward to the Summit of the Future in 2024 as an important opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda and its SDGs.
42. We commit with united efforts, political will and firm actions to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to fulfill the vision of the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We pledge to act now, for present and future generations, turning our world towards a sustainable and resilient path by 2030, and leaving no one behind.

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