

**Local Authorities Major Group Feedback
to the Zero Draft 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**

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I. [Our shared resolve]

PARAGRAPH 11 - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

11. 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 **conditions for an inclusive and fair economic development within the limits of the planet** growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.

PARAGRAPH 13 - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

13. We resolve to realize our vision of a world with **equal and guaranteed** access to **local public services** inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage and quality health care, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.

PARAGRAPH 18 - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

18. We commit to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including **local and regional governments**, civil society, the private sector, academia, and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make toward achieving the 2030 Agenda.

II. [Our changed world - Progress and remaining gaps and challenges]

PARAGRAPH 26- Add wording highlighted in yellow:

26. 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 **and localize** 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.

PARAGRAPH 31- Add wording highlighted in yellow:

31. We acknowledge the common purpose that has united governments, the UN system, local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

PARAGRAPH 33 - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

33. We recognize that the voluntary national reviews have generated valuable lessons learned and have helped countries integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies at all levels.

III. [Call to action – turning our world towards 2030]

PARAGRAPH 35 - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

35. We will leave no one behind 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 vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, people living in informal settlements, 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 between countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequality, including through social protection systems and universal health coverage.

Paragraph 36(c) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(c) We will take action to spread the benefits of digitalization. We will expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy. We will leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to build more comprehensive, dynamic and adaptive social protection systems. We commit to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and to bridge the digital divide, protect digital rights, including through strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries. We look forward to the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact.

Paragraph 36(j) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(j) We commit to use science, technology, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development. We will take action to enhance the ability of developing countries to benefit from science, technology, and innovation through promoting access to 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 manage the benefits and challenges of artificial intelligence. We commit to use science and scientific evidence in policymaking at all levels, bridging the existing gap between science, policymaking and society. In this regard, we undertake to create national councils for sustainable development and to increase the role of the existing councils in policymaking. We undertake to increase the use of science and scientific evidence in policymaking.

Paragraph 36(k) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(k) We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divide and providing financial and technical support and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation. 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 analyse 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.

Paragraph 36(l) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(l). We pledge to take action to strengthen national efforts to collect high quality, timely, 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 territory, sex, age, disability 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 (including local and non-governmental sources) and innovative, multi-stakeholder approaches.

Paragraph 36(m) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(m). We will strengthen the integration of the SDGs into our national policy frameworks and develop national plans for transformative and accelerated action. We will make achieving the SDGs a central focus in national planning and coordination and oversight mechanisms. We will further commit to involving and empowering local and regional governments to ensure local ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to localize the SDGs, ~~and~~ advance and supporting integrated planning, implementation, financing and monitoring at local and ~~regional~~ sub-national levels, amongst others, through Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary Subnational Reviews. We recognize the importance of policy frameworks that enable inclusive and sustainable growth and that shape and translate national development priorities into local realities.

Paragraph 36(n) - Add wording highlighted in yellow:

36(n) We adopt multi-level, multi-stakeholder governance as a guiding principle for governmental action and favor the creation of multistakeholder alliances as a means for enhancing SDG implementation. We envision, accordingly, an inclusive policymaking practice, based on the integration between a top-down and a bottom-up approach. We will increase the involvement and raise the awareness of citizens, which we deem enabling elements for the attainment of the SDGs. Information, education and capacity building will contribute to the empowerment of all, to curbing inequality and to fostering action for the SDGs.