

**The United Nations High-level Political Forum,
under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)**

18-19 September 2023, United Nations, New York,

Informal Summary

Introduction

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) met under the auspices of the General Assembly from 18 to 19 September 2023 in New York. This 2023 SDG Summit served as the second occasion, following the first SDG Summit in 2019, that Heads of State and Government met to review progress and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption in 2015. The SDG Summit convenes every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly to “provide high-level political guidance on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation”.¹

The Summit resulted in a Political Declaration, adopted by consensus during the Summit’s opening. The Declaration reaffirms the commitment of Heads of State and Government to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and uphold all principles enshrined in it. It acknowledges the drastic changes that the world has undergone since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and recognizes the urgent need to take the actions necessary to reverse declines and accelerate progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda and implement the SDGs.

The Declaration commits to taking continuous, fundamental, transformative and urgent actions at all levels and by all stakeholders, to overcome the crises and obstacles facing the world. It commits, further, to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all, identifying those who are being left behind and reaching those who are the furthest behind first. The Declaration also commits to many actions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and to accelerate the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as to take further steps to scale up financing for sustainable development and provide means of implementation for developing countries.

Heads of State and Government, United Nations system executive heads and stakeholder representatives engaged in one plenary session and six thematic Leadership Dialogues on: (i) Scaling up actions on key transitions to accelerate SDG progress; (ii) Building resilience and leaving no one behind; (iii) Game-changers: Applying science, technology, innovation and data for transformative action; (iv) Strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs; (v) Unity and solidarity: Strengthening the multilateral system for enhanced support, cooperation, follow-up and review; and (vi) Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement.

The Summit also provided a platform through which States and other sustainable development actors announced commitments. The 2023 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was also launched during the Summit.

¹ “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, A/RES/70/1, paragraph 87.

The Summit was preceded by the SDG Action Weekend from 16 to 17 September 2023, including an SDG Mobilization Day that created an opportunity for stakeholders from all sectors to convene and mobilize towards an ambitious SDG Summit. This was followed by an SDG Acceleration Day centered around the 12 United Nations High-Impact Initiatives (HII).

Key messages from the 2023 SDG Summit

- ❖ World leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The commitment to the 2030 Agenda remains steadfast at the highest level of government and among stakeholders. Heads of State and Government committed to pursue the realization of the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs.
- ❖ There is a need to reinvigorate progress across the 2030 Agenda. Compounding and multifaceted crises are slowing, and in many cases setting back, progress on the SDGs, which are off track to be achieved by 2030. Only 15 per cent of the SDG targets are on track, and several previous gains have been reversed. Bold and transformative actions on the SDGs must be prioritized and brought to scale.
- ❖ Transformative action can be pursued through science, technology and innovation. Achievements in enabling technology to act as accelerators of the SDGs, and STI need to be at the front and centre of the SDG action plans. STI also need to include women, girls and youth, citizen-science, local communities, and indigenous knowledge. Governments should “double-down on digital,” as digital solutions can accelerate 70 per cent of the SDG targets.
- ❖ The strengthening of integrated policies and public institutions to address the cross-cutting dimensions of sustainable development are necessary to enhance SDG implementation. Enhancing coordination among institutions is needed to implement integrated policies. The responsibility for SDG implementation should span all public institutions.
- ❖ Progress was highlighted in “nationalizing” the SDGs through various institutional mechanisms, accompanied by robust follow-up and review, including the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). Partnerships are needed to support Government-led country platforms to localize SDGs, including in conflict-affected and fragile countries.
- ❖ It is vital to build resilience and leave no one behind. There is an urgent need to eradicate poverty, increase food security, and enhance access to health, quality education and decent employment. Social protection needs to be expanded. National priorities need to address protecting the most vulnerable and empowering women and girls, and youth.
- ❖ Climate change remains an existential threat. This critical challenge must be addressed through transformative action, mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy systems, decarbonization, disaster preparedness and management, and an increase in climate financing.
- ❖ Effective multilateralism and global cooperation are imperatives for addressing the challenges facing the world, including conflicts, climate change, pandemics and migration. Leaders pledged to strengthen multilateralism and the multilateral system for effective

implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen cooperation and enhance global solidarity.

- ❖ There is an urgent need to address the worsening gap in financing the SDGs. Strategic investment in the SDGs is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda. In addition to effective allocation of domestic resource mobilization, reforming the international financial architecture is key to promoting affordable and stable financing across the Global South. Investing in the SDGs has cross-cutting benefits that positively impact all of society.
- ❖ The mobilization of finance and investment and the means of implementation for SDG achievement are urgently needed to underpin SDG action plans. The Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus Plan needs to be fully funded and implemented. Climate finance, debt relief and long-term mission-oriented lending are also necessary. New forms of finance are needed, such as through carbon pricing. Unlocking private capital is another avenue, including through de-risking private investment.

Opening Segment

The Opening Segment highlighted that the 2023 SDG Summit marks the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and will offer high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. The Summit marks the half-way point to the 2030 target date for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Summit will give a response to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and its Political Declaration reignites a sense of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda.

With only 15 per cent of the targets on track, and several reversing in their progress, the SDGs need a global rescue plan. Member States must act now to get the SDGs on track. Bold and transformative actions need to be prioritized to support the wellbeing of the world's people. The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) recommends ambitious SDG scenarios to improve social protection and promote the green economy, while improving access to education and health care and promoting human rights. The UN system is highlighting 12 High-impact Initiatives that support ending hunger, transitioning to affordable and clean energy, providing quality education, access to decent work and social protection, protecting nature, ending the triple planetary crisis, and accelerating gender equality.

There is an urgent need to address the worsening gap in financing for the SDGs. Strategic investment in the SDGs is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. In addition to the effective allocation of domestic resource mobilization, reforming the international financial architecture was seen as key to promoting affordable and stable financing across the Global South. Investing in the SDGs has cross-cutting benefits that positively impacts all of society.

During the Opening Segment, the SDG Summit Political Declaration was adopted by consensus. The Declaration signals the start of a new phase of accelerated progress to achieve the SDGs by 2030, reaffirming that the SDGs are intended to remain a blueprint for sustainable development. It is now the responsibility of Member States "to breathe life" into the Declaration and transform its commitments into reality.

It was noted that strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council as the accountability platform for the SDGs is essential to realizing the 2030 Agenda, while also ensuring that the UN development system continues to improve and becomes more agile.

Member States should commit to reinforcing and strengthening multilateralism, to guide the world towards cooperation in times of crisis. With collective effort and persistence, Member States will overcome the challenges to achieving the SDGs.

Setting the Stage: SDG implementation at the halftime -- What will it take to keep the SDG promise?

The Setting the Stage session highlighted areas of focus for accelerating SDG implementation. Speakers called for leaders to do more to expand civic space for stakeholder engagement and ensure that all human rights are respected. Young people called for an equal seat at the table, as equal partners in policy and decision-making and for strengthening intergenerational partnership and solidarity.

A key ingredient for success in achieving the SDGs is financing. The reform of the international financial architecture needs to go beyond governance issues and lead to reducing inequalities and achieving the SDGs. Joint efforts are needed to create a framework that allows multilateral development banks and credit rating agencies to value long-term and mission-oriented lending and to move away from traditional GDP measures, allowing vulnerable countries to access long-term financing.

The World Bank, for example, is reforming to expand its vision to a more holistic view focused on the dimensions of people, prosperity, planet, physical infrastructure and digital technologies. Their priorities include expanding resource mobilization through partnerships with non-state actors, such as private sectors and philanthropists, working with creditors on debt restructuring, and addressing fuel subsidies and their impacts on the environment to move towards a just energy transition.

Local governments operate at the center of implementation. They understand the urgent need for cultural transformation among decision-makers to combat climate change through democratic and inclusive participation by citizens. There is also a strong need for education and security for children in Africa, as well as for a bright future for all.

Plenary

The SDG Summit is taking place at a critical juncture, in the face of many serious challenges at the half-way point of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Several country groups noted that they are giving the Summit the highest priority with the view to keeping sustainable development at the heart of the international agenda. The Political Declaration and its call for transformative and ambitious measures was referred to as a tool to accelerate the implementation of concrete, innovative measures to achieve the Goals.

Several leaders speaking on behalf of groups welcomed and declared their support for the Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus Plan as a critically needed surge in funding aimed at accelerating SDG implementation. There is a need to focus on accessible financing in the long term to promote sustainable development. The international community was called upon to support reforms of the international financial architecture, increase accessible financing and align financial flows with the SDGs. Calls for affordable financing for SDGs, debt relief and technology transfer were reiterated and emphasized.

There was an appeal to overhaul sovereign debt with the participation of countries from the Global South and a call for a sovereign debt resolution mechanism. The high cost of loans is preventing many countries from investing in sustainable development. There is a pressing need for swift recapitalization of multilateral development banks (MDBs), with a view to radically improve the loaning conditions for the Global South. There is a need also to attract new forms of finance outside of public resources and to unlock private capital to better support SDG implementation.

To revitalize initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund, developed countries were called on to fulfil their promise to address climate change and sustainable development challenges. There were calls for climate finance to keep pace with the costs of adaptation and loss and damage, the full operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions by States parties, a multidimensional vulnerability index to determine access to concessional finance, enhanced technical support and durable partnerships. Limiting the planet's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is not negotiable for current and future generations; otherwise, "for many of us, there will be no more tomorrow."

There was also a call for reform of the international trade system, with differentiated treatment of the Global South in multilateralism. International trade remains marginal and undiversified within LLDCs. The importance of the implementation of the African Free Trade Zone was stressed.

Unilateral coercive measures were declared a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and the fundamental provisions of the 2030 Agenda. The international community must firmly reject such pressures and defend the role of the General Assembly in multilateral debate and decision-making.

Promoting peace is a critical part of sustainable development. Effective institutions and access to justice are key pillars to stability, development and resilience. Achieving peace, justice, equality and inclusion are pivotal for leaving no one behind. Development partners were called upon to jointly support Government-led country platforms in conflict-affected and fragile countries and to help ensure that development agendas are localized.

Leaders Dialogue 1: Scaling up actions on key transitions to accelerate SDG progress

The commitments to achieving the SDGs were reaffirmed. However, at the midway point the implementation of Agenda 2030 is marked by significant crises, including in food security, energy, climate, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have disrupted progress towards the SDGs. The need for global cooperation, strengthened resources, evidence-based actions, and the

involvement of all sectors, including non-governmental organizations, to create a supportive environment for SDG actions and initiatives, was strongly emphasized.

Lack of food security has been a major contributor to the rollback of SDG progress. Increasing food security through sustainable agricultural practices is necessary, especially in developing countries hit hardest by rising food prices.

Transitions for SDG implementation that have been undertaken would need to be continued. These include expanding social protection coverage, promoting employment, improving education systems and addressing climate change through mitigation targets and adaptation actions. The SDGs have been incorporated into national policies, strategies, and plans. Sustainability should be a central consideration in all activities, including financial decision-making, and should be integrated into national budget planning.

The need to revitalize and reform the international financial architecture was emphasized, to make it more equitable and responsive to the needs of developing countries. The review of the international financial architecture should ensure the availability of new and additional funding and access to climate and development finance, particularly through grant-based funding arrangements.

Steps to address the impact of the current global economic crisis and mobilize additional resources for low- and middle-income countries to address the 2030 Agenda are crucial. Sustained financial support is required as well as the fulfillment of international financial commitments to attain the SDGs, which includes the urgency of meeting the 0.7 per cent target for ODA.

The transition to digitalization offers opportunities for better development outcomes, but it must be fair and inclusive. Gender equality and equal access to education remain crucial for sustainable development. Investment in future skills is a prerequisite for economic growth; leaders must do their utmost to protect the most vulnerable populations and provide inclusive and equal access to quality education and training.

Transitioning to an increased reliance on renewable energy was emphasized to support climate action and achieve energy sustainability, including translating promises into concrete action by moving towards net zero emissions by 2050. Revising targets for a mix of renewable sources, halting deforestation by 2030 and creating the world's seventh largest marine protected area should be prioritized. Additional financing for climate action is necessary and essential.

Leaders Dialogue 2: Building resilience and leaving no one behind

Leaders widely reaffirmed their commitment to the SDGs and acknowledged the importance of accelerating progress on their implementation. No country can assume this challenge by itself, especially in the face of conflict, climate change, and economic crises, amongst other challenges. Leaders stressed the need for international cooperation as an imperative to build resilience and leave no one behind.

Wars and conflict – as well as the massive human mobility crises emerging from them – are having devastating impacts for countries’ capacities to invest in sustainable development, forcing the allocation of resources away from development and into urgent humanitarian and relief efforts. Investment is needed both to address the root causes of conflict – often found in inequalities and discrimination – and to find innovative solutions to promote development in all contexts.

Commitments were made to increase resilience through risk management plans and to align national development plans with the SDGs. Developed countries reaffirmed financial commitments to enable further investments towards the achievement of the SDGs. Several countries detailed their commitments to green energy transitions.

The commitment to leave no one behind was strongly emphasized. Priorities are protecting the most vulnerable, including families, children, older persons, empowering women and youth, and increasing food security and access to health, quality education and decent employment.

There were calls for reform of the architecture of the international financial system was. It is necessary that developing countries be able to have increased fiscal space to allow for addressing climate and other risks.

The digital transition needs to be accelerated. Enabling technology, including digitalization, is a key accelerator of SDGs in all areas, including modernization of government, social protection systems, access to health and education, and trade.

Two peace conferences were proposed to be organized by the UN – one on Ukraine and one on Palestine. An offer was made to host the 4th Financing for Sustainable Development conference in 2025.

Leaders Dialogue 3: Game-changers: Applying science, technology, innovation and data for transformative action

While SDG progress is off-track due to multiple crises, STI and data have been key factors in assessing crisis risks and overcoming and mitigating crises, including in relation to COVID-19 and climate action. STI and data are key to rescuing the SDGs by providing evidence-based policy solutions for SDG achievement. Better data can inform SDG progress, risk-informed analysis and early warning systems.

Many governments have made STI central to their SDG action plans or have identified priority areas for STI and data. STI can advance the Goals, and data can track progress, such as in health, education, gender equality, economic growth and other areas. Data must be developed in an inclusive manner, including through citizen-science, local communities, indigenous knowledge and collaboration with nature.

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth remains at the heart of development priorities, but there is space for moving beyond GDP as the only measure of success. Investments in infrastructure, including financial architecture, renewable energy, e-mobility, and digital connectivity, will be

crucial, and can be accelerated through public-private partnerships. Digital solutions can accelerate 70 per cent of the SDG targets, and governments should therefore “double-down on digital.”

Unequal access to STI and data widens inequalities, especially the gender digital gap, and undermines human rights. Proactive policies are needed to include more women in digitalization and AI. Women and girls can be leaders as well as beneficiaries in STI-driven sustainable development. Gender should be central to the Global Digital Compact, and as countries develop AI solutions, all must work to ensure that AI does not perpetuate gender biases and stereotypes. Youth are also natural leaders in this area, and investments must be made in their education, capacity development and training in STEM.

STI and data can drive transformational rather than incremental progress towards the SDGs and can connect societies and spur growth. As STI and data catalyze the emergence and acceleration of innovations, policies must promote positive transformations and ease the impacts of the phasing out of old pathways by enlisting all stakeholders and working for just transitions.

There is a need for open-access STI solutions, including in AI. There is also need for stronger global data cooperation and governance in STI, and greater efforts should be made to build an open, free and secure digital world, ensuring universal access for all. Partnership and cooperation are necessary through a strong multilateral system, based on solidarity and equality, nondiscrimination, and tolerance. Greater international cooperation in STI and data and technology transfer supports development of national capacities, deepens value chains and avoids country brain drain.

STI and data governance should provide an ethical management of data and risks, protect individual data rights and privacy, and consider the prosecution of cyberwarfare. Science and data are also tools to address threats to good governance and the rule of law, including using AI to combat dis-information and misinformation.

Leaders Dialogue 4: Strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs

Cross-cutting dimensions of governance were stressed as necessary to enhance SDG implementation. There is a need to comprehensively involve all stakeholders in SDG implementation, through consultations, access to decision-making and other participatory approaches. Broad inclusion is needed to build societal cohesion and sustain peace as a fundamental prerequisite for development.

Whole-of-society approaches to transformation and change involve collaboration with academia and the scientific community, civil society, local communities, and other actors to co-create solutions. It is important to institutionalize such collaborations. Countries have involved stakeholders in the development of national strategies for sustainable development or new social compacts.

Enhancing coordination among institutions is needed to implement integrated policies. The responsibility for SDG implementation should span all public institutions. The importance of inter-

ministerial committees to coordinate on key policy issues was highlighted. It is important to build coordination capacity and transparency mechanisms to clarify accountability for implementation. There is also a need to strengthen public institutions and invest in human capital.

Progress in “nationalizing” SDGs through various processes and institutional mechanisms was highlighted. Many countries have integrated the SDGs into key strategic and planning documents and processes and aligned their policies with the SDGs. National sustainable development councils have been created to support the implementation of national development strategies.

The importance of SDG localization through collaboration between different levels of government was highlighted. The need for robust follow-up and review systems for the SDGs was also underscored, including improved SDG data and national evaluations. The role of voluntary national reviews in informing policymaking was mentioned. More broadly, the SDGs are seen as a tool for guidance for public and private actors.

The interconnectedness among the 17 SDGs is widely recognized by Governments. The SDGs often serve as a guiding framework for more integrated policies. Integrated approaches are particularly crucial in the context of small island developing States (SIDS), due to the small size of their economies and limited capacity. Examples of integrated policies were provided that span multiple SDG areas.

Digitalization and digital government will be important in the coming years. Countries continue to develop online services and enhance their efficiency and accessibility. Some countries have developed interfaces that allow citizens to interact seamlessly with government institutions. Enhancing digital infrastructure and improving digital connectivity are priorities for many developing countries.

Leaders Dialogue 5: Unity and Solidarity: Strengthening the multilateral system for enhanced support, cooperation, follow-up and review

Effective multilateralism is imperative for addressing the challenges facing the world, including conflicts, climate change, pandemics and migration. Leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthening multilateralism to address global challenges and to take transformative actions to implement the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening dialogue, trust, solidarity, cooperation and inclusion are key. The voice and representation of developing countries in global governance also need to be increased. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and addressing the inequalities and distrust embedded in the multilateral system are key for SDG achievement. Reforms in the international financial architecture are needed.

Effective multilateralism requires respecting the rule of law and upholding human rights and advancing gender equality to ensure no one is left behind. The key role of the United Nations in the multilateral system, including as a key platform for a fair and balanced dialogue among States, and the importance of the Summit of the Future, were underscored. Trust between East and West, between North and South and between governments and citizens needs to be restored. Regional

cooperation can be a catalyst for building trust, bridging geopolitical differences, and building consensus for a common vision.

The urgency in taking action was stressed, stressing the pivotal role of multistakeholder engagement, in particular of youth and civil society, to accelerate SDG implementation. Further strengthening the UN development system, improving the monitoring of SDG implementation, and basing development policies on science and reliable data will be instrumental for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The importance of financing for development was stressed, as well as concrete financial commitments towards SDG implementation, as in the case of an SDG Recovery and Acceleration Plan of around US\$1.6 billion. Other commitments included increasing climate finance, through the Green Climate Fund, the Early Warnings for All Initiative, and supporting green transitions and the transformation of food systems.

Urgent actions for debt relief and restructuring need to be undertaken. Efforts need to focus on working with multilateral development banks to mobilize funding and help countries to tackle debt. Calls were made to provide liquidity for short-term recovery through international financial institutions, to improve debt relief for vulnerable countries, increase financing for SDGs and Paris Agreement goals. Africa's admission to the G20 as a permanent member was applauded.

Transformative actions to combat climate change were highlighted. Integrated efforts at the regional and international levels are key to addressing climate change. The Dialogue heard commitments and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, circular economy and education for climate and environment, as well as transformative actions to reduce greenhouse emissions through energy efficiency regulations and provision of free public transport.

Developed countries were called on to fulfil their commitments on development assistance and climate financing, while developing countries were called on to deepen South-South cooperation. The need to involve more low-income countries in more meaningful and equitable partnerships was underscored.

Leaders Dialogue 6: *“Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement”*

Urgent action was called for to mobilize the resources needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. They noted the regression of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals while highlighting the efforts they are taking to be back on track. Some countries noted that their national development plans are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus received support, as did his proposals for the reform of the International Financial Architecture. The importance of increasing domestic resource mobilization in financing sustainable development was stressed.

The importance of improving tax systems was also emphasized to raise resources to invest in sustainable development. The importance of addressing illicit financial flows was also emphasized.

The development of national financing frameworks was important to accelerate mobilization of resources. However, domestic resources alone are not sufficient to fill the SDG financing gap.

There was call for commitment to provide US\$ 100 billion annually in climate finance. Reform of the international financial architecture was called for and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, were urged to review their Capital Adequacy Ratios. The repurposing of unused Special Drawing Rights was also called for. Borrowing costs are up and debt servicing costs are redirecting financing away from development. Measures are needed for debt cancellation, restructuring, and relief.

Partnership between the public and private sectors and the importance of private capital was underscored. Innovative financing instruments were encouraged and examples were provided of innovative financial instruments, including green and sustainable bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, and debt for nature swaps.

Specific actions are needed to address the unique challenges of countries in special situations. Small island developing states face significant hurdles. The adoption of the multidimensional vulnerability index was called for to ensure that SIDS are not excluded from accessing concessional finance.

The importance of leaving no one behind was stressed and proposals were made to address the challenges that socially marginalized communities face in accessing resources. Solutions include community engagement, targeted budgeting, social responsible investment funds, inclusive financial services, local and community-based financing, and engendering financial inclusion

Closing Segment

World leaders came to the Summit and voiced their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. They highlighted many steps they were taking to scale up actions to accelerate SDG progress, included in addressing climate change, an existential crisis. Steps also included promoting key transitions in different areas, such as to renewable energy.

Achievements in enabling technology as an accelerator of the SDGs were highlighted. Expanding social protection and improving education were underscored, along with a commitment to leave no one behind. National priorities were described in protecting the most vulnerable and in empowering women and girls, and youth. Progress was highlighted in “nationalizing” the SDGs through various institutional mechanisms, accompanied by robust follow-up and review, including the Voluntary National Reviews.

Heads of State and Government pledged to strengthen multilateralism and the multilateral system as imperatives for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up and review. Support was given to the Secretary-General’s SDG Stimulus Plan and there were several calls for debt relief and climate finance.

Numerous calls were made for reform of the existing international financial architecture. Unlocking private capital is also a key avenue, including through de-risking private investment.

An initiative announced by one group would result in the investment of 300 billion Euros in developing countries. Other donors announced their commitment to mobilizing US\$600 billion by 2027 for a global infrastructure development plan.

The global community must continue its work to ensure access to good health and quality education, promote gender equality and human rights, protect the environment and build sustainable infrastructure, as part of the global vision for the world. The results of the Global Sustainable Development Report were sobering. The world needs a strong course correction, which can still be carried out, as the world is at the half-time of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Political Declaration that was adopted constitutes a rescue plan for the planet. Follow up action should take place in several key areas. First, there is a need to transform support of the SDG Stimulus into real investments in developing countries, with over \$500 billion per year for sustainable development required, including through multilateral development banks and other mechanisms. A Leaders Group would deliver a set of clear steps that could enable the \$500 billion to start flowing before the end of 2024. Second, the focus of Voluntary National Reviews can shift to advance accountability and catalogue progress made against the commitments of the SDG Summit and the General Assembly's High-level Week. Third, there is a need to strengthen support for action across the six key SDG transitions — food, energy, digitalization, education, social protection and jobs, and biodiversity. The UN system will need to report on this work at the 2024 HLPF in July.

Fourth, massive increases in investments in social protection are needed. Fifth, as recalled in the Political Declaration, developed countries need to meet their Official Development Assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Sixth, the meeting of the IMF and World Bank in October 2023 needs to lead to an urgent additional re-channeling of \$100 billion in un-used Special Drawing Rights and should also see specific proposals to massively leverage private funding in support of developing countries. There is a strong need to improve global debt mechanisms overall, including by speeding up procedures, enabling immediate debt suspensions and restructuring debt on longer and affordable terms for countries in urgent need. In line with the Political Declaration, reform of the global financial architecture is needed, with concrete proposals developed in time for the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the next Financing for Development Conference in 2025.

Finally, the Conference of Parties on Climate Change in October requires concrete plans and proposals to avoid the worst effects of climate change, including operationalization of the new loss and damage fund at COP28, as well as the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund called for at COP15.

Participants understood that individual ambition on its own will only go so far and is not sufficient. New and focused partnerships are essential. Time is of the essence – the global community must embrace the Political Declaration as a global plan of action. All countries should act with urgency to deliver on the promises made.