

Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development: Political Declaration of the SDG Summit

I Our Commitment

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, have met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 24 to 25 September 2019 at the SDG Summit, to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. We stand firm in our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership - a plan that will free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and want and heal and secure our planet for future generations.
3. Today, we are launching a more ambitious and accelerated response to reach our common vision by 2030, and pledging to make the coming decade one of action and delivery.
4. We recall the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. We will take more tangible steps to support the most vulnerable people and countries and to reach the furthest behind first.
5. We recall that the 2030 Agenda is universal in nature and its goals are integrated and indivisible, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
6. We resolve, 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 protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We also resolve to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.
7. We recognize the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in pursuing sustainable development.
8. We remain determined to rise to the climate challenge with urgent and enhanced ambition to preserve our planet, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. We commit to reverse the trends of environmental degradation and to halt the irreversible biodiversity loss.
9. We recognize that efforts are needed to direct and align the means of implementation with our goals. International public finance can play a critical role in this respect, complementing domestic resource mobilization, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
10. In this endeavor, we must come together in durable partnerships between governments at all levels, and in coalitions of a range of stakeholders, including the business community and civil society.
11. The 2030 Agenda and this declaration are our promise to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations.

II Our World Today

12. We recognize the many efforts at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We have seen a significant response from cities, local and regional governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, young people and other actors. We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly incorporated in national budgets and development cooperation efforts, and we recognize that private sector engagement in sustainable investing is growing. At the regional and global levels, the multilateral development and finance institutions have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals and taken significant steps to incorporate them into their operations.
13. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's ambitious efforts to reposition the United Nations Development System to better support countries in their implementation efforts.
14. We commend the work of the high-level political forum, meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including its reviews of all seventeen sustainable development goals. The Voluntary National Reviews presented by 142 countries bear witness to the efforts at the national level to prioritize integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies and to bring together all parts of society in the common endeavor of realizing the 2030 Agenda. We welcome, in this regard, the summary of the President of the Economic and Social Council of the meeting of the high-level political forum from 9 to 18 July 2019.
15. We welcome the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Secretary-General's Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals. They show that we have achieved progress in some areas, such as in reducing extreme poverty and child and neonatal mortality; improving access to electricity and safe drinking water; making inroads in unemployment globally; and expanding the areas under environmental protection.
16. At the same time, we are concerned that progress is slowing in many areas. Vulnerabilities are high and deprivations are becoming more entrenched. While poverty is the greatest global challenge and its eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, assessments show that we are at risk of missing the poverty eradication target. Hunger is on the rise and progress towards gender equality is too slow. Inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in many countries. Biodiversity loss and green-house gas emissions continue at rates that could bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.
17. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiraling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and the related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people, threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades.
18. The mobilization of sufficient financing remains a major challenge. Investments critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remain underfunded. Systemic risks are increasing and parts of the multilateral system are under strain.
19. We need to do more and faster. Rapid change is possible and the goals remain within reach if we embrace transformation and accelerate implementation.

III Our Call to Accelerated Action

20. We recognize the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to fulfil the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also

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recognize the need for concerted action to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and their interlinkages with the Paris Agreement.

21. We welcome the voluntary actions pledged by leaders at the SDG Summit, the concrete solutions presented at the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit, the initiatives announced at the General Assembly high-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the partnerships launched at the high-level Mid-Term Review of the Samoa Pathway and the outcome document of the high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage.
22. We request the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the first SDG Summit and the reports on SDG progress, and in the lead-up to the Summit to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, to engage governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in generating solutions and accelerating action to address systemic gaps in implementation, as we embark on a decisive decade for the 2030 Agenda.
23. To demonstrate our determination to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, we, the highest representatives of our countries, commit to:
 - a. **Leaving no one behind;** we will strive to place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable in our policies and actions - nationally and internationally.
 - b. **Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing;** we pledge to increase our level of ambition to find the means of implementation, mobilizing and aligning a wide range of financial and non-financial resources and instruments with the 2030 Agenda, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We invite the international community, including official development providers and relevant stakeholders to support these endeavors.
 - c. **Enhancing national implementation;** we pledge to lift the level of ambition of our national responses to the implementation of the Agenda. We will aim to proactively mainstream the 2030 Agenda into our national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks, while respecting national processes and ensuring ownership.
 - d. **Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions;** we will proactively strengthen institutions at all levels to ensure more effective, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. We will strive to equip institutions to better address the interlinkages between the goals and targets to ensure a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy.
 - e. **Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation;** we commit to empower and support cities, regional and local governments and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. We recognize their role as critical partners in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - f. **Building resilience;** we undertake to build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to disasters and economic and other shocks.
 - g. **Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership;** we recognize that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response. We renew our commitment to multilateralism, to find new ways of

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working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We commit to accelerating efforts to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development and we call on all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and youth to continue to engage in the 2030 Agenda.

- h. **Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development;** we intend to promote research, innovation and technologies towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the use of scientific evidence from all fields to enable the transformation to sustainable development. We encourage international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies.
 - i. **Investing in data for the Sustainable Development Goals;** we commit to strengthen our national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage international cooperation to support the most vulnerable countries who face the greatest challenges in generating data and statistics.
 - j. **Strengthening the high-level political forum;** we pledge to carry out an ambitious review of the high-level political forum during the 74th session with a view to better address gaps in implementation and linking identified challenges with appropriate responses, including on financing, to further strengthen the effective and participatory character of this forum and reinforce the peer-learning character of the Voluntary National Reviews.
24. We know the world we want. We pledge to accelerate our common efforts, now, and in the coming decade to reach this vision by 2030.