

Second Revised Draft

Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Introduction

1. We, the Ministers and high representatives, met in New York at the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development and adopted the present Ministerial Declaration to relaunch global action for sustainable development and building a better future for all.
2. We are meeting against the backdrop of a fragile and highly uncertain global socio-economic outlook, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, the rising of geopolitical tensions and conflicts with widespread effects on people, planet, prosperity and peace. We are committed to relaunch and accelerate global action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.
3. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing it as the blueprint for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development, leaving no one behind. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, and it is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.
4. We reaffirm that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We note with concern that, for the first time in decades, the global poverty rate has increased and millions were pushed back to extreme poverty. We reiterate our commitment to reach the furthest behind first, as the pandemic and the deteriorating global economic situation are harming especially the poorest and most vulnerable and have direct consequences on the implementation of the 2030 agenda
5. We recall that the 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, seeking to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom.

We reaffirm that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. We are gravely concerned, in this regard, by the increased and ongoing conflicts in the world, which are affecting global peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development. We call for the full respect for the principles of the UN Charter and international law and condemn any violation of those principles and laws.

6. We reaffirm the universality of the 2030 Agenda and its comprehensive, far-reaching, people-centered and transformative set of sustainable development goals and targets, guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. The goals are indivisible, integrated and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. We reaffirm that the SDGs seek to realize the human rights for all.
7. We reaffirm also our commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the New Urban Agenda and other major internationally agreed United Nations outcome documents in the economic, social, and environmental fields, which are fully complementary and mutually reinforcing with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and international solidarity as the best way for the world to effectively overcome and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and address the other urgent global challenges such as increased poverty; food insecurity and hunger; climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; strengthening global health, including pandemic preparedness and response; reduce inequalities, starting from those in the most vulnerable situations; build and increase long-term resilience from crises and get back on to a track of accelerated progress towards achieving the SDGs. We highlight the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recalling the centrality of good and inclusive governance and the rule of law.
9. We recognize the primary responsibility of governments to implement the 2030 Agenda. We note with appreciation the important contributions all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and encourage additional cooperation. We reiterate the central role of the United Nations system in supporting national and regional efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and effectively catalyzing and coordinating the global response to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive recovery from COVID-19.
10. We reiterate our call to the international community, including the UN system, to further support and address the special challenges and needs facing all developing countries in pursuing sustainable development, especially countries in special situations, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the Middle-income countries and conflict and post-conflict countries.

II. Impact of COVID-19 on the 2030 Agenda and actions to recover better while accelerating progress towards the SDGs

11. We note with great concern that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to generate human suffering and socioeconomic damage. The pandemic has reinforced and created new obstacles to the realization of all the SDGs, has widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment and numbers of people who left the labour force, and continues to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women and girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other marginalized groups.
12. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic and its consequences. In particular, we stress the continuing urgency to address the impacts and underlying causes of and challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which are undermining or reversing progress on many SDGs.
13. We take note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's report on Progress towards the SDGs. In particular, we note with alarm that years, or even decades, of development progress have been halted or reversed, due to multiple and widespread impacts of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change. We are particularly concerned by the rise in extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, inequalities, education disruptions, violence against women, unemployment, additional social and economic vulnerabilities affecting in particular those already in the most vulnerable situations, in addition to the increased challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We recognize that the multiple and interlinked global crises we are facing are putting the SDGs at great risk and jeopardize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to mobilize and accelerate actions for rescuing the SDGs and leave no one behind by adopting resilient, sustainable, inclusive and low-carbon development pathways for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
14. The world's economic recovery has proven uneven and global growth is facing significant risks. We acknowledge that inflation, slowing economic growth, poverty, inequality and the ongoing disruptions in global value and supply chains, increase in food and commodity prices and the serious rise in global food insecurity further endanger development prospects and contribute to a further divergence in recovery, particularly in the most vulnerable countries already suffering from high levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. We call on the international community to enhance international cooperation to address these urgent challenges, including by preserving and strengthening global value and supply chains, in particular for essential goods and services such as food and agriculture, and supporting sustainable agriculture and fisheries, especially in the most vulnerable countries.
15. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a demonstration of the inextricable relationship between humans and nature. We commit to promote the One Health approach to strengthen synergies between the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems. We emphasize the importance of the One Health and other holistic approaches that deliver multiple benefits to the health and well-being of people, animals, plants and ecosystems, that would further strengthen the capacity to address biodiversity loss, prevent, prepare for and respond to the emergence of diseases, including zoonotic infections and future pandemics, and combat antimicrobial resistance. We welcome, in this regard, the Quadripartite Partnership for One Health, composed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and recall the recently agreed operational definition of One Health by the One Health High-level Expert Panel, endorsed by WHO, FAO, OIE and UNEP, which recognizes the interconnection between the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

16. We encourage the adoption of an evidence and science based, multi-hazard, whole of government, whole of society and coordinated approach to prevention and risk reduction, preparedness and response for disasters and emergencies of any kind, including health emergencies.
17. In order to overcome this pandemic, we reaffirm the urgency to ensure timely, affordable and equitable access to safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies. We express deep concern about the gap in immunization rates, particularly between developed and developing countries, and urge all actors to step up efforts to close the vaccination gap, in alignment with the World Health Organization's Global Vaccination Strategy and national strategies. We stress the need to develop and revitalize global partnerships to scale up regional and local manufacturing and distribution capabilities that flexibly respond to the needs of this and future pandemics, in recognition of differing national contexts, and recognize the role of extensive vaccination against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in reducing transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end.
18. We recognize the important role of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and confirm our support to these initiatives. We call on all public and private actors to continue support for effective multilateral mechanisms that aim to accelerate development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for all countries that need them and underline the importance of filling the funding gaps of these facilities, while encouraging countries with the capacities to do so to continue the responsible and transparent sharing of excess doses with the COVAX Facility as well as through bilateral donations, subject to demand, to promote equitable distribution of vaccines to developing countries. We reiterate our commitment to help developing countries in their efforts to meet their national vaccination needs, improve national health systems and health infrastructure, and strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to achieving universal health coverage.
19. We take note of the Rome Declaration of the Group of 20 Global Health Summit, including its calls to support and enhance the existing multilateral global health architecture, with an effective and adequately, sustainably and predictably funded World Health Organization at its centre in its leading and coordinating role. We also note its call to address the need for enhanced, streamlined, sustainable, coordinated and predictable mechanisms to finance long-term pandemic prevention, preparedness, detection of and response to health threats, such as pandemics, as well as surge capacity.
20. We urge Member States to increase international collaboration and coordination on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response at the highest political level, including by participating in and supporting ongoing discussions to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response under the auspices of the World Health Organization, while taking note of the report of the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, as well as the report of the Independent Oversight and

Advisory Committee for the World Health Organization Health Emergencies Programme and the report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

21. We express our highest appreciation of, and support for, the dedication, efforts and sacrifices, above and beyond the call of duty of health professionals and workers and all other relevant frontline workers and volunteers in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
22. We call for further strengthening international solidarity and cooperation for combatting and recovering from the pandemic, including through:
 - a. Ensuring that no one will be left behind in the recovery from the pandemic and the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all; working to ensure timely, equitable, affordable global access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for all, increasing the uptake of vaccines and closing the vaccination gap in alignment with the World Health Organization's Global Vaccination Strategy as well as the voluntary transfer of therapeutics, diagnostics and other health technologies on mutually agreed terms.
 - b. the continued scaling up and expansion of all vaccine production globally, including with a specific focus on developing countries, also through south-south and triangular cooperation and the voluntary licensing and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of know-how, knowledge, data related to COVID-19, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and health technologies.
 - c. Working to address bottlenecks in the effective, efficient and equitable distribution of vaccines among and within Countries with the aim to boost immunization through effective vaccination campaigns globally.
 - d. Strengthening health systems, with particular emphasis on primary healthcare, and public health infrastructure to save lives and livelihoods, and increasing and broadening of support to people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including through information and education, and greater links between public health and environmental policies.
 - e. strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and the role of World Health Organization as the leading and coordinating organization on international health matters, as well as other regional and national health actors, as appropriate, and in collaboration with all other relevant sectors, in line with the One Health approach.
 - f. continuing support for relevant multilateral mechanisms to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic; facilitating access to financial resources for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery.
 - g. providing economic and social support and protection measures, starting with the most affected people and people in vulnerable situations.
 - h. working toward societies that promote health and enable people to live healthier lives, recognizing that better public health is fundamental for global health security.
23. We recognize the continued negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable countries, in particular countries in special situations, as well as on those facing specific challenges in pursuing sustainable development. Taking into account the different levels of development and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on countries in special situations and countries facing specific challenges, we reiterate the call for increased support by taking urgent additional steps to help them address the impacts of COVID-19 for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, including through funding stimulus measures that take into account their special vulnerabilities. We remain concerned that these groups of countries have faced particular challenges in dealing with multiple crises as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including significant impacts on debt, trade,

tourism, commodities, financial flows, food security, education and other economic and social sectors.

24. We recall the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and reaffirm that disaster-prone developing countries need particular attention in view of their high vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate change impacts. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to wider growing risks and note with extreme concern the stark warnings contained in the recent IPCC report. We recognize that the Sendai Framework, provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner. We also recognize the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and stress the need for resilient health systems.
25. We recognize that key economic and social sectors, such as commodities, agriculture and food systems, care, tourism, culture and sport, have been differently impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we commit to scale up efforts to relaunch, promote and support these important drivers of sustainable development, including for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent job creation.
26. We reaffirm the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up action among countries.. We welcome the work of the regional commissions and recognize the valuable contribution of the regional forums on sustainable development, as the multi-stakeholder platforms to support their member States in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the regions and innovate in the preparations of the VNRs, including at the local level.
27. We recognize the contribution of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including its functional commissions and the other intergovernmental bodies and forums, as well as the contribution of all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to the work of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

III. Goals under in-depth review and voluntary national reviews

28. We commend the 45 countries¹ that presented voluntary national reviews at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development. We encourage all countries to use the key findings of the voluntary national reviews and the sharing of nationally driven development approaches to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. We further commend the 188 countries that have presented their voluntary national reviews to date.
29. We encourage the full, equal and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and local governments, in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies and in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews and the national roadmaps for presentation until 2030. We further encourage the involvement and empowerment of local authorities to ensure ownership and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by

¹ Andorra, Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.

citizens, community, civil society and local organizations. In this regard, we welcome voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in coordination and synergy with national actors. We recognize the importance of taking development cooperation policies into account in the voluntary national reviews, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

30. We encourage all relevant actors to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development, including through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, as well as multi-level and inclusive governance that can bring about transformative change.
31. We note with concern that the SDG targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved. We commit to maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda and achieve these targets in an accelerated timeframe, reflecting the urgency conveyed in the Agenda, while keeping track of and taking fully into account the related ongoing intergovernmental processes to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030.

SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

32. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and to implement all targets of SDG 4. We note with concern that the unprecedented global school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic have severely affected the learning, development and well-being of children and youth worldwide. The school closures have disproportionately impacted girls, children from disadvantaged backgrounds, those living in rural areas, children with disabilities and children from ethnic minorities as well as persons in vulnerable situations and marginalized groups. This has exacerbating pre-existing inequalities within and among countries in access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. The impact of the pandemic on equal opportunity is further exacerbated by the digital divides, including the gender digital divides. More than ever, we are faced with an urgency to accelerate progress towards SDG 4.
33. Education is a human right, and promotes the realization of other human rights and sustainable development. It is an investment that requires sustainable funding, and we encourage governments to invest in public education, including early childhood development, care and preprimary education that has also a catalytic effect on reducing women's unpaid care work burden. We urge all governments to increase or maintain the share of public expenditure on education in line with the Paris Declaration, which encourages governments to prioritize, protect and increase domestic and international funding for education towards the international benchmarks of at least 4-6% of GDP and/or 15-20% of public expenditure. While domestic financing for education is of paramount importance, there is a need for international funding to close the widening gap between resources and requirements in developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island states, as well as middle-income countries. We also recognize the importance of Education for Sustainable Development, including cultural diversity for sustainable development, and encourage all countries and

other relevant stakeholders to promote it through educational tools.

34. We commit to take additional measures to avert a multi-generational crisis in education and call for mitigating the effects of school closures and cuts in national education budgets, including on learning, child nutrition, gender-based and all form of violence and child abuse. This includes safely reopening schools, taking all possible actions to ensure qualified teachers and learners' re-enrolment, learning recovery and well-being through a non-discriminatory, integrated, multi-sectoral and gender-responsive approach. We also aim to scale up efforts for remedial, accelerated learning and catch-up strategies to mitigate learning losses, equipping children with foundational skills and taking actions to ensure access to quality education and learning programmes beyond the schools for out-of-school children and youth and illiterate adults, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable, persons with disabilities, discriminated groups, migrants, children in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis, refugees, children and youth living in rural and remote areas, and displaced children and youth.
35. We recognize the impacts of disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic, on education and call for strengthened disaster risk reduction in the education sector. We emphasize the need for new and existing educational infrastructure, school facilities and teaching and learning practices to be risk-informed, resilient and fully accessible to all. This requires channeling financial and other resources towards strengthening these efforts. We stress the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge and learning continuity in formal and non-formal education, as well as in professional education and training.
36. We acknowledge that achieving sustainable development will require delivering quality education to all. We recall our commitment to ensure free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all, with specific attention to girls who are at higher risk to be left behind. We encourage governments to adopt education and lifelong learning strategies, policies and budgets that are gender-responsive to ensure gender equality in and through education. We reaffirm our commitment to build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, drug-free, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. We commit to ensure that programmes and policies on education, training, skills development and decent employment of young people, including young women, are connected and prioritized, recognizing that equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education provides opportunities, capacities and understanding that enables women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and strengthens their voices, agency and leadership.
37. We encourage promoting digital technologies, including low- and no-tech solutions, access to the Internet, connectivity, digital inclusion and literacy and incorporating digital competencies into the education system, enhancing digital skills and competences development, including through public investment in digital qualification, specialization in digital technologies, digital economy, digital infrastructure, public policies and institutional development and multi-stakeholder and international collaboration.
38. We recall the "Paris Declaration: A Global Call for Investing in the Futures of Education", adopted in Paris at the 2021 Global Education Meeting, including the launch of the SDG4-Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee. We commit to strengthen the global cooperation in education, including through the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism and other relevant avenues, to help ensure and monitor the efficient and effective

delivery on the commitments made at the global meetings on education. We appreciate existing multilateral and multistakeholder partnerships for education and encourage continued support.

39. We look forward to the convening by the Secretary-General of the Transforming Education Summit, and call on Member States in collaboration with other key education stakeholders, in particular youth and civil society, to drive forward the transformation of education systems aimed at a resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that advances equality in education and contributes to peaceful, inclusive and sustainable futures. We invite the Summit to take into account the policies and actions recommended in this declaration. We invite the Secretary-General to consult with countries and ensure youth participation in the preparations for and leading to the Summit.

SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

40. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and to implement all targets of SDG 5. We stress that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. National and international efforts for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 must be gender-responsive, integrate women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership. They must ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course, without discrimination of any kind. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains crucial, and efforts must be redoubled to urgently and effectively accelerate action on gender equality and women's empowerment, making it a priority in recovery and response measures to COVID-19 and beyond.
41. Women and girls face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and, in this regard, we recognize the disproportionate impacts on women and girls, especially those facing such discrimination, and those in vulnerable and marginalized situations and conflict settings. We reiterate the urgency of addressing existing structural barriers, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, such as discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes, harmful practices and negative social norms and attitudes, so as to ensure the protection, respect and fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights, as well as their access to ownership, control over land and other forms of property, inheritance and other resources, and access to credit, financial resources and services. We urge that countries fully integrate gender equality strategies into national sustainable development frameworks so as to promote accelerated action and greater policy coherence, recognizing that achieving gender equality will require both targeted gender responsive action as well as gender mainstreaming in all our policies and programmes.
42. We recognize the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We take note of relevant international and regional initiatives. We acknowledge that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and women's full, equal effective and meaningful participation and decision-making at all levels and in all sectors, are essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies,

enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. We reaffirm that all women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development.

43. We recognize that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods, sexual and gender-based violence, and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters. We call for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction policies, plans, programmes and financing; and acknowledge the importance of women's leadership in gender-responsive risk governance. We recognize that empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key to sustainable development, including to effectively manage disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.
44. We note with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and it threatens to undermine progress towards the fulfillment of their human rights. Women have suffered a disproportionate share of job and education losses while their already unequal unpaid care and domestic work burden increased, particularly in the case of women and girls of vulnerable populations. We call for supporting the expansion of gender responsive social protection programmes and strengthening safety nets through nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures. All forms of violence including sexual and gender-based violence and intimate partner violence have intensified during the pandemic, and access to essential sexual and reproductive health services has been affected. While women have played a central role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as frontline health workers, care providers and as managers and leaders of recovery efforts, they remain underrepresented in leadership positions, and their rights and priorities are often not explicitly addressed in response and recovery measures.
45. We commit to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls, in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, all harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as child and forced labour, trafficking in persons, modern slavery and other forms of exploitation. We emphasize that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and call for women's full access to justice, effective legal remedies, health-care and psychosocial services, including protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration.
46. We must continue to protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all women, facilitate women's full and equal participation in the labour market, and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors and at all levels. This requires eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, preventing and eliminating discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence and sexual harassment, ensuring the safety of all women in the world of work, and promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively. We will also provide

specific programmes and mobilize financial resources and technologies to support women to return to economic activity, including access to decent work, training and financial services, strengthening their autonomy.

47. We commit to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. (Source: 2030 Agenda and CSW 66 Agreed Conclusion)
48. We recognize the important roles and contributions of indigenous women and girls, rural and remote women and girls, women smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs, and women in fisheries, as guardians of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and agents of change in responding to climate change, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, enhancing sustainable agricultural and fisheries development, and ensuring food security and nutrition. We support their access to and ownership of natural and economic resources, including land and water, and access to financial services. We will take steps to protect civil society actors, including women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources
49. We reaffirm the need to recognize and value of women's disproportionate share of paid and unpaid care and domestic work and adopt measures to reduce and redistribute this work as well as the need to reward and represent paid care work, including improved wages and working conditions and guaranteeing that caregivers participate in the design and decision-making to implement policies, budgets and plans. This requires promoting shared responsibilities within the household and prioritizing, inter alia, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, gender-responsive social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including but not limited to care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave in accordance with each local context.
50. We encourage strengthening and implementing gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and to develop and strengthen methodologies and tools for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender equality results, and reaffirm the importance of collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data in order to develop and strengthen evidence based public policies and programmes.
51. We reaffirm that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security and, in this regard, we further reaffirm our commitments in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the support to the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and

programmes to accord high priority to promoting its implementation, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

52. We reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use and manage the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and to act decisively and urgently scaling up ocean action in order to accelerate implementation of all targets of SDG 14.
53. We recognize that a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and that the wellbeing of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of our ocean. We renew our determination to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its marine and coastal ecosystems and to protecting, conserving and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We stress the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach, as well as for enhanced cooperation, coordination and policy coherence at all levels to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas. We recognize that the sustainable use of aquatic living resources is an effective strategy to protect and restore marine ecosystems, boost economic growth, strengthen the resilience of livelihoods, reduce poverty, increase food security, and improve nutrition. We will take effective measures, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, to conserve and protect the ocean from natural and man-made hazards, in light of different national circumstances and capabilities.
54. 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.
55. We are alarmed by the global emergency facing the ocean caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, including slow onset changes and more frequent and severe sea level events which are projected to escalate in the coming decades, with coral reefs projected to decline by 70–90% at 1.5°C with larger losses (>99%) at 2°C” of global warming. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion and ocean warming and acidification are serious threats for many coastal human communities and ecosystems, and can impact food and water availability, especially in developing countries, with negative impacts on sustainable development.
56. We recognize the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ocean-based economies, and in particular the ocean-based economies of small island developing states, as well as on seafarers and fishers, who steward one third of the global ocean and which have been disproportionately adversely affected. Plastic pollution continues to enter the ocean at an alarming rate, aggravated by the pandemic. One third of fish stocks are overexploited, and approximately half the live coral cover on coral reefs has been lost since 1870. We call for mobilizing actions for a healthy ocean to make sustainable fisheries and aquaculture deliver sufficient, safe and nutritious food, recognizing that achieving SDG 14 is crucial for the transformation towards sustainable food systems and for achieving SDG 2 by 2030.
57. We emphasize once again the importance of combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and note the progress made by all Members of the World Trade Organization in finalizing negotiations on fisheries subsidies and stress the need to reach

agreement on a comprehensive and meaningful outcome as soon as possible with a view to the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in June 2022, in Geneva. We recognize the importance of adopting sustainable, responsible and risk informed fishing practices and of eliminating harmful subsidies that lead to overfishing, as well as improving the effective and inclusive implementation of fisheries governance mechanisms.

58. We support the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and stress the need to further increase marine scientific research and cooperation to inform and support decision-making, to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how, enhance capacity-building at all levels, mobilize financial resources from all sources and facilitate voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, to contribute to the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, combat marine pollution of all kinds and ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
59. We stress the urgency of preventing pollution and taking immediate actions towards long-term elimination of plastic pollution including through prevention, reduction and elimination of marine litter pollution from all sources. We support national action plans to reduce marine litter that may and promote sustainable consumption that fosters sustainable design of plastic products and other materials so that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, as well as minimizing the generation of plastic waste while ensuring their environmentally sound waste management, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches. We will continue to raise public awareness and engage stakeholders in the prevention of plastic pollution through promoting sustainable and responsible production and consumption patterns.
60. We welcome decision UNEP/EA.5/Res.14 by UNEA5.2 to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, and commit to actively follow-up on the decision by engaging in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the aim of completing work by the end of 2024.
61. We stress the need and call for an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We also recognize the importance of the effective and successful work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and call on participating delegations to reach an ambitious agreement without delay, recognizing the potential contribution of its outcomes to the advancement of SDG 14.
62. We underline the connection between sustainable and healthy oceans and climate action, highlighting the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, in order to meet the relevant Paris Agreement goals as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. We welcome efforts to conserve at least 30 per cent of the global ocean within marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures that benefit biodiversity, climate and ecosystem services. We recognize that climate change seriously impacts the ocean, including by rising sea levels, temperature and acidification and that the ocean also plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as a key carbon sink. We emphasize in this regard the importance of

implementing the commitments made under the Paris Agreement as well as the need to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in the work under the UNFCCC, reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We also welcome the invitation of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the UNFCCC to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action. We reiterate the call for the promotion of marine science and research capacity in small island developing States and least developed countries, including through the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, in line with SDG 14.7.

63. We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine environment and ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people. Recalling that that 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, we recognize the role of small-scale aquatic food producers in this regard and we encourage support to sustainable small-scale fisheries, including through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and by increasing access to resources and markets for small-scale artisanal fisheries.
64. We recognize the importance of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, among other approaches to address the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of oceans and their resources and their contribution to disaster risk reduction, and stress the importance of developing early warning systems and preparedness to prevent and mitigate the risks of ocean-related hazards, including through the incorporation of these approaches, into integrated coastal zone management to prevent pollution, reduce the risk, impacts, and costs of disasters and build resilience to advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
65. We welcome commit to actively follow up on the decision by UNEA 5.2 to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.
66. We emphasize the fundamental importance of healthy oceans and sustainable ocean-based economies for women and girls and recognize the disproportionate impact of ocean degradation on them, including the consequences of plastic pollution in oceans and other water bodies on food security, livelihoods, and the health of women and girls. We recognize the importance of empowering women, children and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, as their full, equal and meaningful participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy and to achieving Goal 14.

SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

67. We reaffirm our commitment to protect, conserve, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss and to implement all targets of SDG 15.
68. We emphasize that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin our human and planetary health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development. We acknowledge with grave concern

that the unprecedented and interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation, land degradation and desertification, ocean and freshwater degradation, pollution, and increasing risks to human health and food security pose an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat to our prosperity and planet, We note with deep concern the continuous trend in desertification and land degradation, and the fact that the impacts of deforestation, desertification, and drought are felt most strongly by developing countries, as well as people in vulnerable situations, especially indigenous peoples and local communities. We also recognize that combating deforestation, desertification, land degradation and drought is important for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. We emphasize the urgent need to halt and reverse habitat loss and degradation by 2030, as part of implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting an inclusive economic transformation in rural areas.

69. We emphasize the necessity to build on and strengthen the complementarity among the 2030 Agenda and the three Rio Conventions—on biodiversity, climate change and desertification—in order to promote a coherent approach to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation, in particular around cross-cutting issues such as food systems. Transforming our food systems towards more sustainability is one of the key solutions to simultaneously address biodiversity loss, climate change and desertification.
70. We emphasize the urgent need for the protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use of forests, wetlands, drylands, mountains and other natural ecosystems, which act as natural sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts, allowing the continuity of the hydrological cycle. Those also support the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities who depend on forests for their livelihoods and have a key role in their stewardship, and protecting their rights under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law. We further emphasize that forests, wetlands, drylands and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and improved human wellbeing and climate change mitigation and adaptation. We acknowledge that soft limits to some human adaptation have been reached, but can be overcome by addressing a range of constraints, primarily financial, governance, institutional and policy constraints and hard limits to adaptation have been reached in some ecosystems. With increasing global warming, losses and damages will increase and additional human and natural systems will reach adaptation limits.
71. We call for transformative actions, underscoring the importance of enhancing adequate, affordable and sufficient means of implementation, including the voluntary provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support from all sources on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, to ensure the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this context, we recognize the importance of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, among other approaches that protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, addressing social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively. We stress the importance of scaling up investments in these approaches and stepping up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation, erosion and drought, floods, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and security and water pollution, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ensuring ecosystem functions and services and resilience and biodiversity benefits, and contributing to planetary and human health as well as socio-economic development. We further recognize that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk

reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding adaptive capacity and resilience to fragile ecosystems, including agroecosystems, and making them less vulnerable. We continue to call for increased political will, the provision and mobilization of resources, capacity-building, mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, technical and scientific cooperation and momentum for ecosystem conservation and restoration and the promotion of these approaches for disaster risk reduction to achieve sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels.

72. We support the development of an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework, building on and going beyond the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and aligned with the 2030 Agenda, with a level of ambition that will facilitate the transformational changes needed to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, including reinforced implementation mechanisms and full mainstreaming of biodiversity into all sectors and policies. We welcome, in this regard, the convening of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021 and look forward to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2022 which will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is intended to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
73. We emphasize the importance of conserving and restoring terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. We are encouraged by the voluntary commitments by more than 100 Member States to conserve or protect at least 30 percent of the global ocean within Marine Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. We stress the importance of respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and highlight the importance of restoring ecosystems, particularly in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.
74. We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. We also reaffirm the role of the UN Forest Forum in promoting sustainable management and conservation of forests and we welcome the outcome of the 17th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on 09-13 May 2022 (UNFF17). We reiterate our support to the important role of the UN Forest Forum in promoting sustainable management, the conservation of forests and the mobilization of means of implementation, including the promotion of traditional knowledge related to forests, timely access to technical assistance and financial resources, especially for developing countries. We also reaffirm our commitment from the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use to work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.
75. We call on Member States to support efforts to implement the strategic objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa; and strongly encourage the parties to the Convention to align their national policies with the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention.
76. We call for actions to combat sand and dust storms and recognize them as a serious challenge to sustainable development in the affected countries and regions.

77. We highlight the need for long-term and affordable financing for biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to enhance the mobilization of resources from all sources, public and private, maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of existing resources and facilitating access to support where needed, in order to significantly scale up support for biodiversity through capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, and to eliminate or repurpose subsidies and other incentives that are harmful to nature, biodiversity and climate while increasing significantly the incentives with positive or neutral impact for biodiversity across all productive sectors.

SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

78. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development and implement all targets of SDG 17.

79. Recalling the centrality of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development, we reaffirm the Outcome document of the 2022 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum Follow-up.

80. We reaffirm that resource mobilization is crucial for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. Fulfilling official development assistance (ODA) commitments is urgent, as international public finance is critical for supporting the sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while taking into consideration that domestic and international efforts and enabling environments need to go hand in hand, and domestic revenue mobilization needs to be complemented with support from all sources. We note that official development assistance (ODA) reached its highest level in 2020 during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and underscore the need for this trend to continue. 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.

81. We also emphasize the need to mobilize domestic resources, including by effectively preventing corruption and money laundering. We call for national institutions to put in place measures to reduce illicit financial flows (IFFs). We also highlight the importance for all Member States to scale up the level of cooperation to prevent and combat the crimes that contribute to and facilitate IFFs as well as to recover the proceeds of crime and to make an effort in the return of stolen assets, including cultural and patrimonial assets in accordance with international obligations.

82. We are concerned that record high global public debt is compounding debt vulnerabilities in many countries that predated the pandemic. We note with concern that about 60 percent of least developed countries and other low-income countries are now assessed to be at higher risk of or already in debt distress, while around a quarter of middle-income countries remain at high risk. We are also concerned that interest costs are rising in the poorest countries and remain elevated in small island developing States, as they grapple with higher interest rates, slower recoveries, credit rating downgrades, and persistent revenue shortfalls.

83. We emphasize that debt financing can enable countries to respond to emergencies and fund long-term investments to achieve sustainable development. We reaffirm the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, and sound debt management, as appropriate.
84. We welcome the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the achievements under the G20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), while noting the lack of participation of private creditors. We take note of the G20 commitment to step up efforts to implement the Common Framework in a timely, orderly and coordinated manner.
85. We emphasize the need to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation.
86. We stress that partnerships will be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as an effective instrument for mobilizing additional human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge. We note the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the public and private sectors and partnerships with civil society to foster strategic long-term investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in areas that could contribute more to combat COVID-19 and its resulting social and economic impacts, including through innovative financing, inter alia, in health systems, including universal health coverage. We similarly encourage partnerships related to poverty eradication; food security and water, nutrition, sustainable agriculture and food systems and related supply chains; digital connectivity; job creation; the care economy; sustainable and quality infrastructure development and growth in productivity.
87. Recognizing that the alignment of public and private expenditures with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement is essential, we commit to revitalizing partnerships in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, bringing together governments at the national and local levels in a whole of government approach, the private sector (including through public-private partnerships), civil society, academia, the UN system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources in support of implementation of all the SDGs. We also encourage governments to enable the conditions for sustainable development and economic growth.
88. We reiterate the important contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a complement to, and not a replacement of, North-South cooperation. In order to step up South-South and triangular cooperation and to bolster support for national and regional development efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, we invite all relevant stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience, particularly homegrown development approaches, as well as good practices, in order to intensify efforts towards the eradication of poverty.
89. We encourage international cooperation in supporting statistical capacity-building and data access in developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries, which face the greatest challenges in producing, collecting, analyzing and using high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data and statistics. We encourage the United Nations System and all relevant actors to take advantage of emerging technologies and their applications, as appropriate, in order to maximize impact and effectiveness in data analysis and collection and stress the need to bridge the digital gap among and within countries.

90. We highlight the importance of continuing efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to hold open, inclusive, transparent discussions on the modernization of ODA without diluting commitments already made. We further welcome the approval of the new indicator 17.3.1 and that “total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD)” has been recognized as a data source for this indicator 17.3.1.
91. We invite the international community and all relevant stakeholders, without prejudice to ongoing support, to cooperate and mobilize resources and expertise, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and countries of origin of refugees, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees and displaced persons in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality for humanitarian action.
92. We note the challenges faced by developing countries graduating to higher income per capita status, particularly for graduating countries that are highly vulnerable to shocks and other disasters. While we recognize that progress has been made towards graduation from the least developed country category, there remain significant challenges in meeting the graduation criteria and in ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation. We encourage the Committee for Development Policy to continue to engage with Least Developed Countries (LDCs), graduating countries and countries recently graduated from the least developed country category so that the full extent of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 are understood, in line with the work of the Committee on sustainable development and resilient recovery from the pandemic.
93. We call for sustainable, inclusive, affordable and resilient global and regional value chains and transport systems, including to and from landlocked developing countries, to help to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and other existing challenges and prevent future disruptions, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy.
94. We reaffirm our commitment to promote a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.
95. We welcome the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the commencement of trading under the Agreement on 1 January 2021 to strengthen efforts aimed at doubling intra-African trade, which is instrumental to Africa’s resilience, post-COVID-19 recovery and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
96. We stress the role of financial inclusion as an essential tool to promote sustainable development through, increased and inclusive access to credit, financial products and services, including concessional ones, , especially for women, and for improved public and private resource management. We recognize the role of digital inclusion as a means to enhance financial inclusion for all.

IV. Other priority issues

97. We emphasize the need for concerted action to implement the outcomes of all relevant major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.
98. We reaffirm that climate change, along with poverty eradication and eradicating inequality, is one of the major challenges of our time. We recommit to accelerate ambitious actions, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels building on the outcomes of the 26th and prior Conferences of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP26) and towards a more ambitious and equitable COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. We reiterate our invitation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene world leaders in 2023 to consider ambition to 2030. We welcome the “Glasgow Climate Pact” and urge the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the 26th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP26), including the Glasgow Climate Pact and work towards an ambitious COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. We express our deep concern that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and recall the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We emphasize the need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including significantly increasing support for developing countries, beyond USD 100 billion per year. We also stress the contributions of multi-actor climate partnerships and the role of non-state actors and underscore the importance of scaling-up finance for climate action from a wide variety of sources.
99. We reaffirm the importance of international collaboration on innovative climate action, including technological advancement, across all actors of society, sectors and regions, in contributing to progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. We call on all actors, including multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, global funds and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve our common climate change and sustainable development goals.
100. We recall the need for international cooperation to assist developing countries in ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern, and clean energy for all. In this regard, we welcome the high-level dialogue on energy held on 24 September 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. We take note of the Secretary-General’s proposed global roadmap for accelerated SDG 7 action and reaffirm the need to continuously engage on the implementation of SDG 7.
101. We welcome the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, chaired and convened by the Secretary-General and take note of its first brief on the three dimensional crisis in these areas.
102. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrial development is an important source of economic diversification and productive capacity enhancement and income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides technological solutions to environmentally sound industrialization. We call for deepening cooperation to accelerate the sustainable industrialization and modernization of

developing countries by providing support including through voluntary technology transfer on mutually-agreed terms and capacity-building on industrial production and manufacturing to help developing countries better integrate into the global industrial, value and supply chains.

103. We recognize the need to enhance efforts to ensure equitable access to safe, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved water quality, as well as hand-washing and hygiene, also in order to overcome COVID-19 pandemic and prevent other diseases, and, by 2030, implement integrated water resources management, at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate, in order to ensure a sustainable supply of water for life, agriculture and food production and water-related ecosystems and their services and other benefits. We recall that the International Decade “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” and its aim to further cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. We also call for an ambitious, pragmatic, inclusive and action-oriented United Nations 2023 Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028.
104. We support emerging avenues in support of acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as Space2030 Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation plan, as a forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools for the achievement of the SDGs while recognising that the benefits of space will be brought to everyone, everywhere.
105. We welcome the establishment of the high-level panel of experts (HLP) and its work to finalize the multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) for small island developing countries by December 2022.
106. We acknowledge the critical role of young people as agents for sustainable development, climate action and peace. As critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations, we emphasize the importance of engaging and supporting the full, effective, constructive and inclusive participation of children, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and youth, particularly those in vulnerable situations, in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to including youth in the development, monitoring and implementation of intergenerational strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs and to ensure that education, skills development and decent employment of young people, as well as youth agency and leadership are prioritized. In these regards, we take note of the “Youth2030, the UN Youth Strategy” and we encourage its accelerated, system-wide implementation, as appropriate. We recognize the importance of ECOSOC Youth Forum as a main platform for youth engagement in the work of the UN and we encourage additional engagement of youth in the HLPF sessions, including as part of national delegations. We also commend the commitment of young people to climate action and we commit to meaningfully engage with youth in the relevant policy and decision-making processes, building upon relevant existing initiatives such as Youth4Climate, the UN Conference of Youth (COY16) and the CBD’s Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBD).
107. We recognize that building sustainable, inclusive, equitable and resilient societies must begin with investing in all children and youth, respecting their rights and helping to ensure that from early childhood they grow up in a safe and healthy environment free from poverty and hunger, the dangers and risks associated with illegal drugs, and all forms of

discrimination, violence, neglect, bullying, abuse and exploitation, both in person and in digital contexts, and through the elimination of all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, paying specific attention to children affected by armed conflict. We recognize that preventing and addressing violations and abuses of their rights is key to facilitating the achievement of the SDGs and sustaining peace.

108. We welcome the growing contribution of the reinvigorated United Nations Resident Coordinator System and the repositioned United Nations Development System in maximizing the impact of the UN action in support of countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

V. Our Roadmap for the Way Forward

109. We call for a renewed global commitment to sustainable development to achieve a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the current global instability and conflicts, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as well as other systemic obstacles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of SDGs. We commit to implement the actions agreed in this Declaration, including those in the under the Goals under in-dept review section on SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 14, SDG 15 and SDG 17.

We reaffirm our commitment to the actions in the political declaration adopted at the 2019 SDG Summit and past HLPF Ministerial Declarations and recognize the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, including through COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

110. In reaffirming the centrality of multilateralism and international cooperation and solidarity, with the United Nations at its core, in dealing with global challenges and sustainable development, we take note of the report of the Secretary-General Our Common Agenda as a concrete vision to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

111. We recommit to leave no one behind and accelerate action to reduce inequalities, including in particular by strengthening international and national efforts for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We reaffirm that the realization of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in decision- and policy-making is necessary and will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the SDGs and targets. All actions, including those with regard to the response and recovery from COVID-19, should be gender-responsive and ensure all women's and girl's full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

112. We recognize the need to increase and better align public and private resource mobilization in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development. We also recognize the need to harness innovation and technology, including digital technology, and strengthen effective multi-stakeholders partnerships, noting the need to increase transparency and accountability.

113. We urge countries to adopt a sustainable, resilient and inclusive global recovery as an important element of a sustainable growth strategy and to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and drive transformative change towards more

inclusive and just societies in line with countries' national circumstances, needs and priorities.

114. We are committed to accelerate actions to address the climate, biodiversity loss and pollution crises taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities, by:

- a. Scaling up financial resources with the aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies, and the priorities and needs of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States, considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation,
- b. Combating environmental pollution and enhancing our ability to sustainably use, restore and protect ecosystems services and prevent overexploitation of natural resources including through the use of circular economy approaches,
- c. Promoting the need for a sound management of chemicals and waste, in order to protect human and animal health and the environment worldwide and in particular working toward the adoption of a strengthened global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,
- d. Strengthening national, regional and global efforts and funding to address both land and ocean-based marine litter and plastic pollution, and aim to increase funding for financial and technical cooperation to combat litter before it reaches terrestrial and marine environments,
- e. Realizing access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all and enhancing tools for effective implementation of water policies and strategies at all levels, by better integrating water issues in all other relevant sectors. We call for closing the water financing gap by mobilizing innovative and inclusive finances from public and private sources and international and domestic sources.
- f. accelerating the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition.
- g. strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

115. We urge additional global action in support of an equitable and sustainable economic recovery, amending imbalances in the global financial system and recommitting towards an equitable global economic system. We take note with interest of the the Secretary-General's proposal for convening a biennial summit to promote a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy We underscore the importance of ensuring inclusivity in our discussions on macroeconomic and financial issues at the United Nations.

116. We call for supporting increased Foreign Direct Investments, particularly in developing countries, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing their key role for economic growth and development. We resolve to address investment barriers, including high perceived and real risks related to sustainable investments in low- and middle-income countries and the lack of pipelines of bankable sustainable projects. In this regard, we recognize the important role of the United Nations development system, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions in addressing the capacity and

funding gaps in sustainable, quality, infrastructure investment, working through existing initiatives, and we resolve to take steps to deploy blended finance at scale, as appropriate, to utilize all infrastructure financing sources.

117. We call upon Member States with strong external positions to consider the voluntary channeling of special drawing rights to countries in need, in a timely manner, including through the International Monetary Fund's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. We look forward to the expedited operationalization of the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a new mechanism to voluntarily channel special drawing rights to provide affordable long-term financing to low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries, as appropriate, with due consideration to national legal frameworks.. We will continue to explore viable options to voluntarily channel special drawing rights through multilateral development banks.
118. We take note with appreciation of the 2021 Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General on 23 and 24 September 2021, as well as its pre-Summit, held from 26 to 28 July 2021 in Rome. We note also the Chair's Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit, issued by the Secretary General. We also take note of the Nutrition for Growth Summit held in December 2021 in Tokyo, Japan and its commitments. We call on all actors to implement the respective voluntary commitments of the 2021 Food Systems Summit including the National Pathways and Coalitions of Action, as appropriate, building on regional and national priorities and respecting national policies and priorities. We take note of the establishment of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, hosted by FAO in Rome, and call the UN System to work with the Hub in order to support governments to develop and strengthen an SDG-based national food systems transformation pathways, already developed by 111 countries. We also encourage the relevant UN actors and the Hub to consult with Member States on the format and modality of the stock-taking moment. We also look forward to the reporting on the follow up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit at the HLPF sessions. We commit to advance integrated, balanced and holistic food system approaches, through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and intergenerational dialogue, to ensure food security and nutrition, reduce food loss and waste and build sustainable and build sustainable and resilient food systems.
119. We welcome the Quadrennial Secretary General's report on the progress on the implementation of the new urban agenda. We reaffirm that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will continue to contribute to the implementation of the SDG. We encourage Members States who have not done so to submit their first cycle national reports.
120. We will continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization and keeping supply chains functioning.
121. We reaffirm our commitment to further promote and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice for all 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. We commit to increase the global fight against corruption, illicit financial and arms flows, forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking, as well as illicit drug production and trafficking. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring women and youth's full, equal and meaningful participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and State-building.

122. We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity, [based on 2021 HLPF Political Declaration p.18] We call to take measures to ,respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.[Based listing on para 19, 2030 Agenda]
123. We commit to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respecting international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to self-determination of peoples, including of those living under colonial and foreign occupation, and the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.
124. We recognize the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and further stress that entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation could promote economic growth and create jobs.
125. We commit to a responsible and inclusive use of key enablers and multipliers for accelerated action for the SDGs, such as digital technologies and new and emerging tools, including by:
- Strengthening the science-policy interface through evidence-based policy making and support for research and development. In this regard, we take note of the Co-chairs’ Summary from the 7th Multistakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Accelerating global connectivity for all by 2030, while promoting digital cooperation and implementing policies on digital inclusion and closing the digital divides.
 - Leveraging ICT and STI to promote inclusive digital economy and connectivity and build resilience across sectors, infrastructure connectivity and technical assistance as well as innovation and increasing digital skills and literacy, including media and information literacy especially in developing countries
 - Leveraging rapid technological change, which can contribute to the faster achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation” and the ongoing work of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and we look forward to further discussions on the proposed Global Digital Compact.
 - Reaffirming that any use of digital technologies must protect and respect the same human rights that people have offline and online, with special regard given to the protection of children and people in vulnerable situations. .
126. We commit to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels, including through involving and empowering local authorities to ensure local ownership of SDGs, in particular through the empowerment of citizens, communities, civil society and local organizations, in order to to ensure local implementation of development priorities.
127. We appeal to the international community and national governments to work together to ensure development and investments in national statistical and data ecosystems that enable high-quality, timely, open, and reliable data, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant

in national context for evidence-based decision-making and to ensure that every individual is represented. We commit to strengthening partnerships to provide a rapid response in times of uncertainty when timely data is needed the most. We stress the importance of risk-informed and science-based policies, prevention and response to future health emergencies, building resilience, and reliable data collection.

128. We reaffirm that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other obstacles that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We call upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the recently adopted Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda in the least developed countries, in line with our collective pledge to leave no one behind.
129. Bearing in mind the specific challenges related to those Countries, we welcome the decisions to hold, in 2024, both the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries; and the fourth UN conference for SIDS, given the short remaining years of the mandates of the SAMOA Pathway, with the aim to finding urgent additional solutions to the unique and particular vulnerabilities facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the SAMOA Pathway and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
130. We also look forward to the mapping exercise to be conducted by the Secretary-General to provide a detailed overview of the current support available to middle-income countries aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries. We also look forward to the meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly during the seventy-seventh session of the Assembly, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
131. We [welcome – placeholder awaiting happening of the events] the action-oriented outcomes of recent major events, including UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50, , Stockholm+50, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the UN Ocean Conference. In this regard, we are looking forward to the second part of fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China, and the adoption of an ambitious and transformational Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the extension by the UN General Assembly of the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to 2030 and take note of the decision of the board of the 10-Year Framework to continue the development of a new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production that will reflect an ambitious and inclusive pathway for systemic and circular approaches and for multilateral and multistakeholder cooperation.
132. We encourage ambitious and action-oriented outcomes for the other major events, including COP 27 on climate change in 2022, Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive

Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, the High-Level meetings on Tuberculosis and Universal Health Coverage, the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, the SDG Summit in 2023, as well the Secretary-General’s upcoming Transforming Education Summit and the Summit of the Future in 2022.

133. We encourage all countries to participate in the September 2023 SDG Summit at the highest possible level. We call on countries and institutions to take measures to make progress in the ten cross-cutting accelerated action areas identified in the Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit between now and September 2023. We will use the 2023 Summit to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development and follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through national and regional consultations. We invite the Secretary-General to mobilize governments, the UN system and stakeholders in preparing for the SDG Summit so that it marks the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs.