

Together 2030 comments on the Co-Facilitators' elements paper for the consultations on the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. February 28 version.

On “[Our Shared Resolve]”

Keep this part as short as possible. It mainly repeats previously agreed commitments. Focus action-oriented commitments, i.e. *“Facing the breakdown or breakthrough option, we resolve to take immediate action to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and related documents promises,”* *“Considering the commitment made towards multi-stakeholder participation in implementing and monitoring the SDGs, we will establish institutional mechanisms to ensure their meaningful engagement in sustainable development policy planning, implementation and follow up.”*

Reinforce the 2030 Agenda commitment to SDGs universality and interlinkages, i.e. *“By adopting the SDGs, we decided 17 indivisible priorities for global action. To reach them universally, considering goals interlinkages, and leaving no one behind was and still is our promise.”*

On [Our Changed World]

Gaps must be acknowledged when considering the updated [shared resolve]. It will enable building the solutions and urgency to accelerate, i.e. *“The SDGs targets that would be met in 2020 were not reached, not even indicators related to increasing quality data availability (indicators 17.8.2 and .3). Thus, a data-based decision making and reporting is not improving, affecting the chances to reach any goal.”* (See Cepei, [“The SDG 2020 Targets Rehearsing for the future.”](#)).

There needs to be an acknowledgement that Covid-19 impacts were worse than they would be because of the lack of a quick multilateral response. In addition, the fact that SDGs were off track, i.e. *“Covid-19 impacts were more profound because of our slowness to respond in a rapid effective way and worsened by our delay in reaching the SDGs.”*

It needs to explicitly acknowledge those mostly affected by COVID-19 were the elderly population, women, girls and children.

Refer explicitly to reporting quality gaps, i.e. *“The high number of VNRs presented each year at the HLPF reflect countries commitment with the 2030 national implementation. However, efforts should be made to improve VNRs’ quality and alignment with the 2030 Agenda established reporting mechanism.”*

On [Turning Our World toward 2030]

The multiple crises facing our world today are interlinked and cannot be siloed faced, i.e. *“We recognize that the multiple crises facing our world today are interlinked and should be confronted as a whole, avoiding siloed strategies.”*

Consider the quality of the actions and processes established to implement and report on SDGs progress at all levels (global, regional, national), i.e. *“We commit to increasing the quality, data, transparency, and accountability of the 2030 Agenda follow up and monitoring system, including stakeholders participation at national and sub-national level.”*

Be explicit on possible synergies between the SDG Summit and the Summit of the future to be held in 2024. It’s important to firmly establish that there needs to be the interlinkage to avoid each going in its own track.

While promoting children and youth meaningful engagement is a step in the right direction, Member States would assume an intergenerational approach, i.e. *“To fulfill our commitments, we will continue promoting children and youth meaningful engagement, but also we will promote an intergenerational approach to ensure we can learn from the experience and wisdom of elder generation.”*

Affirm the SDGs provide us with a blueprint to build resilience and address current crises. But also affirm that they represent an agreement by world leaders to collectively create a fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable world.

Leave no one behind is the central transformative pledge of Agenda 2030. This compels us not only to transform the lives of those who are the furthest behind but to also fight discrimination and the root causes of inequality within and among countries.

SDG implementation must re-affirm a clear focus on reaching those who are furthest behind. This must include specific actions for most vulnerable and marginalized, including people with disabilities or they will continue to be left out of development progress and the commitments made through Agenda 2030.

We welcome that the draft elements paper presented by the co-facilitators includes a renewed commitment to reach those furthest behind first, as well as a specific bullet point on addressing inequalities and exclusion, reaching the furthest behind. However, in addition to empowering women, promoting gender equality and the narrow focus on gender equality and engaging young people, the political declaration should also recognize the need to make specific efforts to reach and include children and people with disabilities. This would be in line with Agenda 2030’s broader focus on the most marginalized, it would also be reflective of the reality that people have complex, overlapping identities and that youth or women with disabilities face even more complex barriers to have their rights realized.

Disability inclusion is an essential element of the development of any country. It will not be possible to achieve the goals set out in Agenda 2030 and the promise to “leave no one behind” without systematically and consistently including people with disabilities in society. Development that misses out parts of the population cannot be considered effective.