

HLPF – Second Informal Consultation, Friday 19 April CANZ Statement

I have the honour to deliver the following joint statement on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and my own country, Australia.

CANZ thanks the co-facilitators for the opportunity to comment on the elements for the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 high-level segment of the ECOSOC high level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

As noted in our previous comments, CANZ supports a Ministerial Declaration that upholds the 2030 Agenda commitment to balance the three dimensions of development, and the indivisibility of all 17 SDGs and 169 targets. It is important that the Declaration reviews the full suite of targets under each Goal in focus, to avoid inadvertently cherry-picking.

The Ministerial Declaration should advance our efforts to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a focus on leaving no one behind.

CANZ commends the co-facilitators for putting together a succinct and focused elements paper. The elements are a strong starting base for the zero draft and our deliberations.

On the specific components of the elements paper, we have the following suggestions:

1. Main current trends

- We welcome recognition of the crises and challenges that have impacted implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- We should explicitly reference that these trends and challenges have reversed development gains, weakened global economies, and escalated humanitarian needs.
- It should highlight growing inequalities, including gender inequalities, which threaten to prevent our ambition to leave no one behind.

2. Priority actions and investment pathways

- We strongly support the first point, reaffirming the 2030 Agenda.
- While we support the second point on poverty reduction, we consider this point is more usefully captured in the section on Goal 1.
- The point on the link between peace and security and sustainable development should be broadened to include a reference to human rights.
- Gender equality should be elevated to follow the reference to combatting inequalities.
- We support the recognition of the Summit of the Future. We should consider also referencing other major high-level meetings taking place during UNGA High-Level Week that are relevant to sustainable development, notably the meetings on Anti-Microbial Resistance and Sea-Level Rise.

3. Goal 1: Ending Poverty

- We support the emphasis on multistakeholder partnerships and the use of science, technology and innovation and digital innovation to help end poverty.
- This section should also highlight the links between gender equality and women's empowerment, poverty reduction, and the international financial architecture.
- And it should include a focus on social protection, rights to economic resources, building resilience to shocks.

4. Goal 2: Zero hunger

- We support this section as drafted by the cofacilitators and note with appreciation the call to build resilience and sustainability in food systems and keep supply chains open for agriculture trade.
- It should also include consideration of the targets on, for example, sustainable food production and genetic diversity of seeds.

5. Goal 13: Climate action

- We support the elements contained in this section, including regarding transformational change and action on emission reductions, adaptation, and climate finance.
- We consider this section should recognise the major outcomes of COP28, notably:
 - our collective commitment to transition away from fossil fuels, and
 - to align our Nationally Determined Contributions with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- We support a prominence in this section to supporting countries that are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- This section could benefit from a reference to efforts to support disaster risk reduction and implement the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, noting the increase of climate-related disasters.

6. Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- We strongly support and recommend elevating the point that strengthening the rule of law and access to justice can catalyse progress against the 2030 Agenda.
- This section should more usefully include more elements under SDG16, notably:
 - reducing and eliminating violence, especially against children;
 - reducing corruption;
 - developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions; and
 - ensuring public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.

7. Partnerships for the Goals

- The Ministerial Declaration must seek to catalyse increased investment across all goals and targets, from all sources, to narrow the SDG funding gap.
- We support the inclusion of climate finance, technology, and capacity building as the key means of implementation for achieving the 2030 Agenda. We encourage the co-facilitators to draw from consensus language to reflect our shared commitments.
- We support the use of agreed language on international financial architecture reform, noting ongoing discussions on these issues in advance of the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.
- We support references to more meaningful involvement between the World Bank and IMF.
- We also support references to bridging technology and digital divides and data and emphasise the importance of considering gender in this context.

8. VNRs

- We support this section as drafted by the cofacilitators, although we would support greater emphasis on strengthened participation of civil society in VNR reporting, noting that the VNR process is stronger when all relevant UN bodies, civil society, private sector organisations and multilateral development banks are able to participate fully and meaningfully.

Co-facilitators, please rest assured that CANZ will continue to support you in your endeavours to achieve a concise, focused, action-oriented, and consensual document. We look forward to the release of the zero draft.

Thank you.