



MAJOR GROUPS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

First Informal Consultations of the Ministerial Declaration HLPF 2025

Ophelia Kemigisha

My name is Ophelia Kemigisha, I am one of the organizing partners of the LGBTI Stakeholder Group and I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism.

Excellencies, only 5 years remain until 2030. As we all know, none of the goals has been achieved - in fact we are seriously off track. This is a reason for urgency, but not despair. Over the next five years, and indeed beyond that, we have the opportunity to evaluate our actions so far, expand initiatives that have shown promise, and work to secure a just, sustainable, and resilient future for ourselves and those who will come after us.

Excellencies, we are deeply concerned that some member states are openly rejecting the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in these very halls. As the preamble to the resolution adopting the Goals states, this Agenda is a plan for action for people, planet and prosperity. Member States are charged with the responsibility of acting on behalf of the people that make up the various nations of the world and should not use such an expansive and well-grounded process to win political points. As countries of the world, you have a responsibility to all of us to end poverty, to ensure food security for all, to correct the injustice of gender inequality, to protect the various beings on this planet including those that are non-human, and to ensure everyone's health and well-being.

Instead, we are facing multiple interlocking crises. Military spending is increasing while development assistance plummets. Hard-won rights are under attack again and indigenous persons, women and girls, LGBTIQ communities, racialized groups and many others face increasing persecution. Income inequality is at an all-time high and the underlying systemic

barriers to healthy lives and social protection remain in place, while higher costs and lower wages make basic livelihoods abysmal.

We have witnessed the highest temperatures for January on record and yet, fossil fuel production is ramping up in many parts of the world. Even the largest economies seem unwilling to shift their energy production quickly enough towards renewable energy.

How can you sit by and watch this go on? We need you, as our leaders, to come together, step up and find solutions urgently. We must de-escalate conflict and put our collective energies towards a world worth living in. No SDG can be achieved without achieving the others, and none of these can be achieved without guaranteeing human rights for all.

We reiterate our calls for universal public quality healthcare for all people at all ages, including sexual and reproductive healthcare and ensuring financial risk protection. We call for decent, healthy and safe workplaces, a recognition of unpaid care work as a first step to guaranteed free public care for all, and for a greater emphasis on data and research for the achievement of the goals. Most importantly, we call for policy coherence between the various organs of the UN so that the gains achieved in one process are not lost or unnecessarily duplicated. Lastly, we appreciate the continued collaboration with civil society through the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Mechanism and reiterate our commitment to bring the rich expertise of the various constituencies we represent into these processes.

Thank you.

Veronica Brown

My name is Veronica Brown, and I am the coordinator of the Women's Major Group, also delivering this statement on behalf of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism.

Excellencies, as my colleague Ophelia reminded us, we are severely off track, with financing challenges contributing to these setbacks - including rising sovereign debt burdens,

diminishing development and climate finance, illicit financial flows and global tax evasion and avoidance, among others - at the core of our current sustainable development crisis. Underinvestment in critical social sectors threatens progress towards meeting the SDGs and exacerbates inequalities, including gender inequality. Despite global commitments, substantial funding gaps remain, with limited public resources, insufficient private sector investment, and inadequate aid hampering progress. Gender-responsive budgeting and financial inclusion initiatives often face structural obstacles, including discriminatory financial systems and lack of political will.

And yet, the challenge of financing the SDGs is not just about mobilizing more money and closing financing gaps - it is more systemic and fundamentally related to effective governance. It entails deep, systemic reforms to our global institutions and systems, to infuse renewed trust and commitment in the promise of the SDGs and catalyze significant long-term investments in critical societal transformations, such as energy and transport infrastructure, water and sanitation, health, education, equality, the environment, and digital connectivity.

A rising threat is the rampant misinformation and disinformation, which threaten the very democracies that enable the financing and political will so vital to our shared agenda. Left unchecked, these forces risk destabilizing fragile institutions— particularly in developing nations. Developing countries need support to monitor and understand misinformation and disinformation, to integrate digital and media literacy into education programs, to reinforce independent journalism, and to build inclusive digital infrastructure that is not reliant on big tech.

Excellencies, with the outcomes of HLPF 2025 and the World Social Summit at stake, we call on you to address the shrinking space for civil society amidst this alarming rise of state and non-state actors promoting anti-gender and anti-rights agendas. These movements undermine the potential for inclusive development, as we have seen again this week, these forces are a threat to Agenda 2030 and the goals that we have collectively and painstakingly worked to achieve all these years. When they win, we all lose. Genuine progress hinges on reversing these trends and embedding equity and justice at every level of policy making and implementation.

Finally, we want to emphasize the importance of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process in driving transparency, accountability, and SDG progress. VNRs must become more actionable, traceable, and inclusive, embedding sustainability principles into national governance, policies, and long-term planning.

VNRs must reflect past progress but also set out concrete policy commitments with clear timeframes, short, mid, and long-term –and identify responsible agencies for each commitment. To enhance coherence and accountability, these reviews should inform a National SDG Roadmap, linking each action to specific SDG targets with assigned monitoring indicators, dedicated budgets, and lead institutions. To ensure transparency and continuity, each VNR should include a tracking table comparing targets from previous VNRs, documenting gaps and challenges, and outlining updates strategies and commitments.

Looking beyond 2030, VNRs must help institutionalize sustainable development by establishing permanent commissions, parliamentary oversight committees, and mandatory impact assessment for new policies. We also call for stakeholder participation to be institutionalized, ensuring civil society, marginalized groups, academia, the private sector, and local authorities are involved from the outset.

Thank you for your work.