

**Zero Draft**

**Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2025 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme: “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”**

**I. Current trends, challenges and their impacts on accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

1. We, the Ministers and high representatives, met in New York at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the high-level segment of the 2025 session of the Economic and Social Council and adopted the present ministerial declaration.
2. We stress the significant and interconnected challenges and setbacks related to inequality, poverty and hunger, global economic volatility, climate change, and environmental degradation.
3. We also reaffirm that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
4. We underscore the insufficient financing for sustainable development and are concerned about the digital divides and technological disparities.
5. We recognize that global backsliding on peace is a particular threat to sustainable development. We reaffirm the urgent need to strengthen multilateralism, global solidarity and policy coherence, and highlight the need to build on the political momentum created by the Summit of the Future, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

**II. Priority actions for advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind**

6. We commit to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted ten years ago, emphasizing the urgency to take action in the five years remaining, and exert all efforts to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

7. We underline the need to implement the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and the relevant development-related commitments in the Pact for the Future.
8. We underscore that urgent actions are necessary for leaving no one behind.
9. We take note of the SDGs Report 2025 and the Global Sustainable Development Reports 2019 and 2023 and their emphasis on a systems-based approach to transformations, taking into account the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of all the SDGs. We commit to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development.
10. We address the special challenges and needs facing 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 middle-income countries, conflict and post-conflict countries. In this regard, we reaffirm the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031, the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in St. John's in May 2024, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, while noting the gaps that remain, and look forward to the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
11. We highlight the urgent need to address the alarming SDG financing gap and scale up the provision of the means of implementation for developing countries to achieve the SDGs, including access to concessional finance, transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and capacity building.
12. We recognize the crucial role of science, technology and innovation, as well as data and evidence-based solutions, in accelerating the realization of the SDGs. We will increase the use of science, scientific knowledge and scientific evidence in policymaking to advance the SDGs.
13. We will continue to take action to bridge the digital divides and spread the benefits of digitalization. We are concerned about limiting access to innovation and AI, especially when 2.6 billion people are still offline. We commit to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact.
14. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We commit to urgent and ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement for emissions reduction and adaptation efforts.
15. We recommit to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and recall its midterm review, as disasters have become more frequent and intense. We acknowledge that its implementation will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries.
16. We emphasize the importance of the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in protecting, conserving and restoring nature and terrestrial and marine ecosystems, as well as ensuring their sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.
17. We also commit to strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement with the active participation of national and local governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and youth

organizations. We emphasize the importance of local solutions and the promotion of local ownership of the SDGs.

### **SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

18. We acknowledge the relevance of good health for resilient societies, communities and economies. We commit to investing in primary healthcare, universal health coverage, disease prevention and pandemic preparedness, as well as clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

19. We recognize that achieving SDG 3 requires global solidarity and collective efforts. We commit to strengthening international cooperation in the health sector, scaling up adequate and sustainable health financing and investment, and strengthening health workforce capacity-building in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support to development and innovation programmes.

20. We support partnership and social participation initiatives to promote health and well-being in developing countries and access to health services, vaccinations and health education.

21. We recognize the interlinkages between health and environmental pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.

22. We will enhance the prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies, and strengthen regional health responses and cross-border pandemic coordination.

23. We commit to ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, including improving maternal, newborn and child health outcomes. We will implement comprehensive strategies for the prevention, early diagnosis, management and treatment of non-communicable diseases and assist low- and middle-income countries in their efforts to reduce mortality and morbidity from such diseases.

24. We recognize the tremendous global burden that road traffic accidents continue to place on society in terms of both human suffering. We note the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.

25. We will ensure greater cooperation in medical research, sharing experience and best practices, early warning and response systems, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

26. We recognize the transformative potential of digital health technologies in advancing health promotion, enhancing disease prevention, and supporting the achievement of universal health coverage and health related SDGs.

27. We recall the obligation of States to uphold the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health. We commit to setting up supportive structures for integrated policies and actions to support mental health, including in the online environment.

### **SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

28. We highlight the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 15th anniversary of UN Women. We acknowledge that achieving full human potential and

sustainable development is impossible if all women and girls are denied full and equal opportunities.

29. We reaffirm the commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

30. We emphasize the importance of women-led development, and the empowerment of women to take ownership of development, especially in developing countries.

31. We will take action, including the legal and institutional measures as well as comprehensive social policies to ensure the participation of women in all spheres, equal pay for work of equal value, universal social protection and inclusion as well as to eliminate discrimination and other mechanisms.

32. We will address all forms of violence, including the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence, including in digital spaces, and discrimination against women and girls and work towards ensuring their full and equal participation in all aspects of society, and encourage women's participation and leadership in STEM and entrepreneurship.

33. We emphasize **the importance of** social and financial structures **for lifting** ~~to lift~~ women and girls out of poverty. We commit to increasing investment in the economy, including care-economy and promote equal labour market opportunities for women ~~and girls~~. We commit to eliminate technology, resources and services discrimination, ensuring transformative approaches to address the root causes of gender-based discrimination.

## **SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

34. We stress that the Second World Summit for Social Development offers an opportunity to foster inclusive social development and address key challenges to achieve well-being for all.

35. We reaffirm to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries and to invest in the economy, including the care-economy, to restore and create jobs and to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological development and innovation.

36. We recognize the important role of the cultural and creative economy as a driver for inclusive and sustainable development growth.

37. We will take action to ensure adequate income and decent work for all, creating an enabling environment for full, productive and freely chosen employment. We will address fair and equal wages, reskilling programmes, decent work policies to promote economic stability, and gender responsive social protection systems. We will promote international labour standards, social protection and income security for all.

38. We will promote international solidarity through initiatives, such as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition.

39. We will enhance capacity-building and improve access to financing for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises. We pledge to promote the transition to formal employment and to strengthen investment in social protection and foster social inclusions.

40. We will invest in education, vocational education and training and align lifelong learning opportunities and skills development, among others, to support the sustainable and green transition of our economies.

41. We will strengthen labour laws to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, while ensuring the prohibition and elimination of child labour in all its forms.

## **SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

42. We commit to enhancing action on marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and reducing marine pollution, building on the momentum and commitments arising from the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

43. We acknowledge that a healthy ocean and its conservation, including marine resources, are critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

44. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.

45. We underscore that the ocean-based economy presents a crucial opportunity for developing countries to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

46. We recognize that SDG 14 remains the least financed of all the SDGs. We underscore the need to enhance financial mechanisms to drive SDG14, including commitment to supporting capacity building, facilitating exchange of knowledge, technology and innovation, and financial mobilization to all developing countries to achieve SDG14. We pledge to enhance cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation in addressing SDG14.

47. We recognize the potential of blue economy initiatives, including ecotourism, and small-scale and artisanal fisheries, for achieving sustainable development and livelihoods, food security and employment. We also highlight the need for investing in such initiatives, and providing incentives to sustainably promote blue economy, including through promoting responsible fisheries, as well as combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. We underline that economic growth must be balanced with environmental protection and social inclusion in sustainable ocean management.

48. We pledge to invest in enhancing climate resilience for marine and coastal areas, recognizing this as crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda and minimizing the adverse impacts of climate change.

49. We note the adoption of the Agreement under the UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and encourage States to sign, and ratify, approve, and accept and accede the Agreement to ensure promote its early entry into force.

50. [placeholder – UNOC3] We commit to accelerating efforts to end marine pollution of all kinds, including plastic pollution, through a legally binding instrument on plastics. [placeholder – UNOC3]

## **SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

51. We highlight that the financing for development process is closely linked to the 2030 Agenda, reinforcing international solidarity and more equitable economic policies.

52. [placeholder – FfD4] We commit to addressing finance gaps, scaling up financial assistance and providing debt relief to developing countries. We stress our deep concern on financing gaps and decreasing trends of development finance and stress the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries. [placeholder – FfD4]

53. We reiterate the urgent need to reform the international financial architecture.

54. We will take action to ensure a more coherent, inclusive, effective and efficient use of the available resources, mobilize public, private, domestic and international resources, improve and build on existing structures, ongoing work and processes.

55. [placeholder – FfD4] International development cooperation continues to make a significant contribution to realizing sustainable development and implementing the 2030 Agenda. Recent shifts and reductions of Official Development Assistance (ODA) amidst changing political priorities have put development cooperation under stress. We stress the alignment between international cooperation in all its forms and national development priorities. [placeholder – FfD4]

56. We recognize that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth. We recognize the critical importance of creating an enabling environment at all levels to increase domestic resources and ensure that developing countries have the necessary fiscal space to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. We reaffirm that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which supports, complements and helps contextualize the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation targets. These relate to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up.

58. We will provide investment pathways addressing interlinkages through partnerships and transformative projects in support of the SDGs. We will promote sustainable finance frameworks and private investments consistent with the SDGs, supported through guarantees.

59. We will take action to enhance North-South, South-South, triangular and regional cooperation on access to science, technology and innovation. We will promote technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity building, and investment in data and research as essential components for enabling developing countries to fully harness science and evidence-based solutions.

60. We commit to bridging the science, technology and innovation divides and the responsible use of science, technology, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development. We will enhance capacity-building initiatives to improve national research institutions, knowledge-sharing networks, and build data and statistical capacity to strengthen science and evidence-based policymaking.

61. We will encourage the building of genuine partnerships with other States, academia, business and industry, civil society, and the private sector to achieve the 2030 Agenda 2030.

62. We welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/322 on the multidimensional vulnerability index and call for the full and effective implementation of its mandate.

63. We welcome also the meaningful involvement and participation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the multilateral development banks in the HLPF.

### **Voluntary national reviews**

64. We commend the 37 countries that presented voluntary national reviews at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

65. We recognize that the voluntary national reviews presented by countries reflect their efforts to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies and acknowledge the need to continue supporting countries in the voluntary national reviews, including through the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews.

66. We encourage all countries to use the key findings of the voluntary national reviews and the sharing of locally driven development approaches and pathways to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda. We encourage greater support for developing countries in preparing comprehensive VNRs.

67. We will strengthen the voluntary national reviews as a tool for sharing knowledge and tracking progress, involving all relevant stakeholders.

68. We encourage countries to consider developing national road maps of voluntary national reviews for presentation until 2030 and to support local authorities in the preparation of voluntary local reviews.