Statement of the Russian Federation on the zero draft Ministerial Declaration

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your considerable efforts to incorporate our proposals into the draft Ministerial Declaration. We welcome the fact that a number of our suggestions and concerns have been duly reflected in the current version of the text.

That said, we would like to submit a few additional comments and proposals for your kind consideration.

We intend to suggest amendments to paragraphs 2 and 5 to ensure they more accurately reflect the current global economic context.

In para 5 we also ask you to change the mentioning of Summit of the Future with SDG Summit-2023 as more relevant to the HLPF.

With regard to paragraph 6, we believe that the final sentence referring to human rights and gender equality may be better placed elsewhere, as its current positioning creates an imbalance, implying that all Sustainable Development Goals are solely directed towards these two objectives.

In paragraph 8, we propose to strengthen the language by incorporating language based on General Assembly resolution 75/181, emphasizing that food and medicine must not be used as instruments of political coercion, and that, under no circumstances, should people be deprived of their means of subsistence and development.

We would also like to propose a slight adjustment to the reference to country groupings in paragraph 10, to ensure alignment with the terminology used in the 2030 Agenda.

We kindly request the inclusion of a new paragraph 11 bis, which, in our view, is essential to the full and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We reaffirm our commitment towards the mobilization of affordable, adequate and accessible financing from all sources to support developing countries in their domestic efforts to address bottlenecks for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We call upon developed countries to address the SDG financing gap in a timely manner including through delivering in full on their respective ODA commitments.

We will also be submitting our proposed language for paragraph 13, particularly with reference to the role of the United Nations and the principle of State sovereignty. In

this context, we believe it is important to use agreed terminology regarding artificial intelligence. As we do not support the Global Digital Compact, the only acceptable formulation for us would be to take note of its relevant commitments.

The same approach applies to paragraph 7 in relation to the Pact for the Future.

With regard to paragraph 17, we would not be in a position to support language calling for a more ambitious engagement with stakeholders, as we believe the Forum must remain, first and foremost, an intergovernmental platform.

SDG3.

In this section, we would like to propose a slight amendment to paragraph 18, drawing on the language of General Assembly resolution 78/130.

We were unable to identify a reference to cross-border pandemic coordination in existing United Nations documents and would appreciate clarification on the source of this proposal.

Regarding paragraph 24, we suggest including a reference to the upcoming High-level Meeting on Improving Global Road Safety.

For paragraph 27, we intend to propose amendments based on the language of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

SDG5

n paragraph 28, we propose the removal of the word "all" before "women and girls" to avoid the unintended implication that the Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved even if some women and girls are denied equal opportunities.

With regard to paragraph 29, we respectfully request the deletion of the final clause following "and". While recognizing the importance of women's rights, we note that they constitute only one of the twelve critical areas within the broader framework of gender equality. We also caution against the disproportionate emphasis on human rights within the SDG framework.

In paragraph 30, we believe the reference to "women-led development" should be removed. This concept is not clearly defined in intergovernmental agreements and may raise

concerns regarding inclusivity and potential misinterpretation as discriminatory toward men.

For paragraph 31, we would appreciate clarification regarding the other mechanisms being referred to.

In paragraphs 32 and 33, we reiterate our request to replace "gender-based violence and discrimination" with "discrimination and violence against women and girls", which aligns more closely with agreed UN language. Additionally, we will be providing a few comments on paragraph 32.

As for paragraph 33, we have serious reservations regarding the reference to equal labour market opportunities for girls, as we do not support any language that could imply the endorsement of child labour.

Finally, we propose the inclusion of a new paragraph in this section emphasizing the importance of family-oriented policies. We believe that strong public support for families plays a vital role in enhancing the well-being and status of women and girls.

SDG8.

In paragraph 34, we propose deleting the word “inclusion”. The adjective introduces an unnecessary limitation to the broader scope of Member States' efforts. Our objective for the Summit is to promote social development across its three foundational pillars: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration. Social inclusion is one component of the broader concept of social integration.

Regarding paragraph 35, we believe the opening sentence may be missing a reference point—for instance, an expression such as "our endeavor"—to provide clarity and contextual grounding.

In paragraph 36, we propose aligning the terminology “cultural and creative economy” with the agreed language contained in General Assembly resolution 78/133.

In paragraph 37, we will be submitting a few proposals regarding references to gender-responsive systems and income security, with a view to ensuring accuracy and alignment with existing mandates.

We propose the deletion of paragraph 38, as the initiative referenced—namely, the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition—is not

intergovernmental in nature but a Secretariat-level effort, and therefore may not be appropriate for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration.

Finally, in paragraph 41, we recommend revising the reference to “sustainable and green transition”, as this terminology does not enjoy intergovernmentally agreed status.

SDG 14

We would like to reserve our position on paragraph 42, as the United Nations Conference on the Oceans has not yet taken place. It is important to note that the outcome will be a declaration, not a negotiated document containing formal commitments.

We propose the inclusion of a new paragraph addressing the protection of offshore installations, submarine cables and pipelines, and other critical maritime infrastructure. This addition should draw upon the agreed language of General Assembly resolution 79/144 on “Oceans and the Law of the Sea.”

In paragraph 47, we request the use of the agreed terminology “sustainable ocean-based economy.” We also propose amending the final sentence to better reflect the equal and integrated nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Regarding paragraph 48, we suggest referencing “disaster resilience” instead of “climate resilience,” as we believe this term provides a broader and more inclusive framework. In line with the priorities of developing countries, we emphasize that efforts should be focused on adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

As previously indicated, we find the language on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) to be highly problematic. Our strong preference is for its deletion. However, our Capital is willing to consider a concise formulation limited to taking note of the Agreement only.

In paragraph 50, we recommend clarifying the objective as mitigating the adverse impacts of marine pollution.

SDG 17.

We would prefer to strengthen paragraph 53 by providing further clarity on how the international financial architecture can be reformed, drawing on the outcomes of the G20 Summit held in Rio.

In paragraph 55, we have doubts about the need for inclusion of the last part of the first sentence about the impact of changing political priorities on development cooperation.

With respect to paragraph 56, we believe the reference to “ensuring the necessary fiscal space for developing countries” requires refinement. While international support is important, primary responsibility lies with developing countries themselves to enhance the effectiveness and resilience of their fiscal systems.

Additionally, we propose the inclusion of four new paragraphs, based on the outcomes of the Rio Summit, addressing:

the need to support industrialization in developing countries,

the importance of addressing debt vulnerabilities in low- and middle-income countries,

the role of trade as a driver of sustainable development, and

the importance of international tax cooperation.

We also reiterate our request to include a separate paragraph emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate unilateral coercive measures (UCMs), in line with relevant UN resolutions on trade and development.

We will share minor amendments to paragraphs 59 and 61 to ensure alignment with the language of the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, paragraph 62 should primarily underscore the need to develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product including through the potential contribution of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).