

INTERVENTION

Business and Industry Major Group

HLPF 2023

GENERAL DEBATE –

Trusteeship Council, 15:00 – 17:30 July 19, 2023

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

As members of civil society and societal partners, representing companies and employers from the smallest SMEs across all sectors and around the globe, the continuous presence of the Business and Industry Major Group reflects our full-on commitment and dedication to accelerate action and impact towards the 2030 Agenda.

Business has in many ways played a central role in advancing the SDGs, but we need -- and stand ready - - to further strengthen action for sustainability and in working towards solidarity.

While the Business and Industry Major Group is an extremely diverse group, we stand firmly united by the strong conviction that business brings key solutions to the challenges faced by the international community, that the SDGs and 2030 Agenda serves as our shared blueprint and that the United Nations system is the platform to share and scale those solutions through partnerships.

Our diversity is a strength and a resource – from the smallest SMEs to large global companies with wide reach in developed and developing countries, where mobilized and empowered, the private sector is a resource bringing unparalleled technical knowhow, resources, and collaboration towards meaningful action to successfully deliver the 2030 Agenda.

We call on the HLPF to prioritize and strengthen problem-solving and practical dialogue involving the private sector at national, regional, and global levels, and to empower and mainstream public private partnerships here at the UN. We want to thank representatives of missions that have consistently spoken up for involvement of all stakeholders and particularly of business.

As we look ahead to the SDG Summit this September, and the Summit for the Future in 2024, we want to underscore that multilateralism is not an end in itself – it must have a purpose, it must hear, engage and reach everyone, it must be meaningful and relevant, it must move the needle. Recovering sustainably from crises, re-establishing peace, tackling climate change and economic inequality, creating jobs and opportunities, and, protecting all human rights, requires an even stronger commitment and concerted action to meaningful ongoing multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership, with business.

Only truly inclusive, practical, and networked multilateralism, that is effective and transparent, will bring us into the joint future that we all must build together towards 2030 and beyond.