

HLPF on Sustainable Development 2023

*Theme: " Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels "*

General Debate, 17-19 July 2023

Statement by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj  
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies,

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a pressing concern that we cannot overlook. Even before the pandemic, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was already insufficient, and the global crisis has further exacerbated this situation. The countries of the Global South have been particularly affected by the disruptions caused by the pandemic, as well as by food, fuel, and fertilizer crises resulting from geopolitical tensions.

We face numerous challenges on our path to achieving the SDGs by 2030, including the pandemic's impact, supply chain disruptions, conflicts, climate events, inflation, rising interest rates, and shrinking fiscal space for many nations. These crises have revealed the interconnected nature of the SDGs, illustrating the need for collective action.

In this context, this year's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) theme provides an opportunity to lay the groundwork ahead of the SDG Summit scheduled for September.

Excellencies,

Development is a critical issue for the Global South. Developing countries face unprecedented constraints as they strive for sustainability. They must address immediate growth and progress while transitioning towards sustainability. Solutions to their short-term needs and structural vulnerabilities must be complementary to long-term development strategies.

Therefore, our efforts must be comprehensive, inclusive, fair, and sustainable. We should increase investments to fulfill the SDGs and find solutions to address the debt risks faced by many countries. Reforms should be implemented in multilateral financial institutions to expand eligibility criteria, ensuring access to finance for those in need.

We also need to take tangible actions to promote the use of data in discourse, development, and delivery in developing countries. Sharing technology and

experiences are crucial for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. High-quality data is vital for effective policy-making, resource allocation, and public service delivery. Democratizing technology can help bridge the data divide.

Excellencies,

As we intensify efforts to rescue the SDGs and provide relief to those most in need, we must also discuss the revival and reform of institutions and systems that will deliver on these goals.

Reforming the global governance architecture and revitalizing global decision-making processes to be more representative are fundamental for building a future where no one is left behind. Such efforts will facilitate development models that ensure no region, country, or individual is left behind. They will enable a human-centric globalization without contributing to climate and debt crises.

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, and we must remain resolutely committed to the UNFCCC. We need to work together to have tangible and meaningful outcomes in the UNFCCC process, including by enhancing cooperation on climate ambition and low-carbon development and pathways for just, equitable and sustainable energy transitions. An ambitious, balanced, and implementation-oriented outcomes across all the important pillars of global climate action; namely the mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and means of implementation including climate finance is an imperative.

To address the demand-side response, India has proposed a vision of anchoring individual actions for a lifestyle for the environment, known as the LiFE approach. This approach promotes sustainable choices that align with the welfare of our planet. It aims to be pro-growth while also being green and sustainable.

Excellencies,

As many of you are aware, India prioritized the recovery and acceleration of the SDGs during its G20 Presidency.

Last month, India presented an ambitious seven-year Action Plan for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs, which contains a coordinated, integrated, and inclusive roadmap for G20 action. This plan not only strengthens G20 commitment to the development agenda but also proposes transformative actions in three core areas:

First, bold and decisive actions are needed to foster data for development and digital public infrastructure, stimulating grassroots-level innovations worldwide. India's own experience with these innovations has transformed our societies and governance in a short period.

Second, investing in women-led development not only accelerates progress across all SDGs but also delivers tangible results for all sections of society.  
Third, securing globally just transitions will ensure the planet's future survival while meeting the aspirations of its diverse people.

We firmly believe that these actions will act as force multipliers for accelerating progress across all SDGs and contribute to a more effective and robust multilateral system.

Excellencies,

The 17 SDGs represent our promises to future generations. We have several important summits ahead of us this year, including the G20 Summit, the SDG Summit, and COP28. It is crucial to place the development agenda at the heart of these discussions. It is our collective responsibility to prevent the SDGs from falling behind.

In conclusion, I reiterate India's strong commitment to the 2030 agenda.

Thank you!