

4 minutes duration

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are gathering here today at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Unfortunately, due to the compound effect of the crisis, such as Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and Russian war in Ukraine the progress thus far has not been satisfactory.

Russia's war against Ukraine, in particular, is detrimental to the implementation of the SDGs. Its economic, social, and environmental consequences go far beyond European borders. It contributed directly to global food insecurity, energy crisis and environmental degradation. Russia has manipulated energy prices and is using energy as a weapon to blackmail Europe and the World. It would be difficult to pinpoint the specific SDG that has not been negatively affected by Russia's war against Ukraine.

Kremlin persistently promotes a misleading narrative that portrays Russia as a defender, but in reality, Russia is not a victim but an instigator of aggression. It is evident that Ukraine is safeguarding not only its own nation but also upholding the principles of the rules-based international order. The security of Ukraine is, in fact, the security concern for all of us collectively.

In the face of growing efforts to disrupt and reshape the current global order, jeopardizing international norms and the foundations of international law, it is imperative that we take action to protect the international system. These

disruptions not only hinder progress towards achieving the SDGs but also undermine the collective efforts of nations to address pressing global challenges. We cannot afford any more delays in implementing necessary reforms that align with the SDGs, which serve as a comprehensive framework for eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring social inclusion. By prioritizing the SDGs, we strengthen the foundations of the multilateral system, fostering cooperation and collaboration across borders and sectors.

Mr. President,

Climate change is a Global threat, and thus demands truly Global action to address it. Lithuania, together with the EU, has been leading Global Climate action by ambition and example. Lithuania has fully met its international climate commitments and reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 60 % in 2021, compared to 1990s along with almost 80 % of increase in GDP and now has an ambitious goal to make the economy climate neutral by 2050 and fully circular.

However, to achieve significant breakthrough at the global level give a fair chance to the goals of Paris and Glasgow agreements to be implemented, new and enhanced Climate mitigation commitments are needed from all Parties.

Mr. President,

There is a need to align the SDGs with digitalization. The Global Digit Compact provide a unique opportunity to foster global digital cooperation and ensure universal connectivity. SDGs is all about leaving no one behind, but in this digital era it also means leaving no one offline. Global Digital Compact can play the role of connecting digitalization with the SDGs.

Data is another aspect that should be fully harnessed. Current decisions shouldn't be based on previous data. Real time data should inform our decision.

Lithuania's reform in transforming the Department of Statistics into State Data Agency enables us to rely on almost real time data.

Mr. President,

It is crucial to ensure coordination and continuity between the upcoming processes of the UN, namely the SDG Summit, COP 28 and the Summit of the Future. Current HLPF should provide valuable insights to all of them. The upcoming SDG Summit presents an opportunity for collaboration among multiple stakeholders. We should ensure that the SDG Summit generates the much-needed momentum as we enter the second half of the implementation phase. This momentum should be leveraged to raise global awareness and attention towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future, have the potential to help in rebuilding trust, fostering cooperation, and revitalizing the principles of multilateralism that are necessary to fully realize the SDGs by 2030.