

HLPF General Debate Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

-Deputy Vice Minister Steven Collet and UN Youth Representative Fenna Timsi

- Mr/Madam (Vice)President, Distinguished Delegates,
- We all feel the urgency of the upcoming SDG Summit: none of us are on track, and COVID-19, the Russian invasion and the subsequent food and energy crises have hit the developing world especially hard. We must make 2023 count to deliver on the SDG promise.
- The case for the SDG Stimulus is clear. We need to step up efforts. As a consistent and large donor - bilaterally and through Multilateral Development Banks and the UN – the Netherlands is actively engaged in doing that.
- Funding the gap will require a whole set of interlinked solutions. The private sector also has an important role to play. The Dutch financial sector – with our support – works on practical and innovative solutions. The ILX Fund for instance has already raised over a billion USD from Dutch pension funds to invest in the SDG’s.
- A second building block for success is investment in key interventions: those that will help move multiple goals forward. One such gamechanger is water. Safeguarding our most precious collective good is one of the defining challenges of our time. If we fail on water, we will fail on all SDGs.
- The UN 2023 Water Conference and its Water Action Agenda offer the basis to accelerate progress on water-related goals and put water at the heart of political decision making. It helped for instance strengthen cooperation between SIDS, including within our Kingdom, where Curacao and Aruba are innovating on climate adaptation.
- The third step to reclaim the SDGs is to use them firmly as the guide to our national policies, as in the new National Development Vision 2030 of Sint

Maarten. The Netherlands recently strengthened the SDG assessment for all new policies, including to avoid negative spillovers to developing countries.

- As our promise to present and future generations, the SDGs are especially important for young people. It is my privilege, therefore, to give the floor to Fenna Timsi, our UN Youth Representative.
- 3 records of the hottest day have been broken in a row. A record above 100 million people are forcibly displaced, 43 million children. Records unequally targeting vulnerable groups. Young people’s future is scary. And while we might have different fears, we can carry the same hope.
- As a team, we should focus on the similarities instead of disparities. In a team, no one gets left behind, including us. Not as liabilities, but active agents of change.
- That is why I am collaborating on a UN generational test - an accountability mechanism measuring policies’ impact on current and future generations. It ensures policies take into account future generations’ needs and addresses intergenerational inequalities.
- Let's rise up as game changers, where no records are broken, and ensure our actions are youth-responsive, promoting human rights and environmental justice in ALL regions. And we NEED intergenerational solidarity. Because this, this is not a game. This is our common future. And it starts now.