

Zero-Draft

Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Ensuring than no one is left behind”

Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Segment of the 2016 session of the Council on the theme “Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results”

We the Ministers, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. ***Pledge*** that no one will be left behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this first High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development following its historic adoption, we underscore the need for its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets to be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centred, universal and transformative, and that its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development. We recall all the principles recognised in the 2030 Agenda and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

2. ***Reaffirm*** the central role of the High-level Political Forum in line with relevant mandates, including resolutions 66/288, 67/290 and 68/1, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the Agenda at the global level by, inter alia, facilitating the sharing of experiences, providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up, while promoting system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

3. ***Have considered*** the theme of the 2016 High-level Political Forum, “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, and recall in this regard that the dignity of all people is fundamental, that all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are to be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and that we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

4. ***Recall*** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, envisions a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity (including the right to development), the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met. In these regards, we pledge to make real a world in which no individual, people or country is left behind.

5. **Further recall** that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress against all the Goals and targets. Our efforts to leave no one behind must include all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants and people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism.

6. **Have also considered** the thematic discussion of the 2016 High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, “Infrastructure for sustainable development for all”, and further stress the importance of building resilient infrastructure with a people-centred approach, aimed at reducing inequalities and bridging disparities of all kinds, for ensuring that no one is left behind.

7. **Recognise** that the scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a revitalized Global Partnership to ensure its implementation, working in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations. We are fully committed to this, and to move from commitments to results. The means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each Sustainable Development Goal are key to realizing our Agenda, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and critical for ensuring that no one is left behind.

8. **Welcome** in these regards, inter alia, the holding of the inaugural Forum on Financing for Development and take note of its intergovernmental agreed conclusions and recommendations. We further note the progress made on operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and welcome the holding of the inaugural Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, supported by the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team. We look forward to the establishment of the online platform as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

9. **Also reaffirm** that the availability of high-quality, transparent, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data underpins our efforts to leave no one behind. Data should measure poverty in all its forms and dimensions as well as progress on sustainable development, to reveal gaps and recurrent challenges in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to assist developing countries through technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen data collection, dissemination and analysis. We take note of the Global Indicator Framework on the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and look forward to its timely adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

10. **Commend** the 22 countries that presented voluntary national reviews at the 2016 High-level Political Forum, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these

countries in their early steps for implementing the 2030 Agenda, which account for different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. National reviews provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and we encourage States to take into consideration experience gained from these reviews and to volunteer for new national reviews in coming years.

11. **Recognise** the role that regional and sub-regional fora and organisations have in following up the Agenda. In this regard, we welcome the identification, development and convening of appropriate regional and sub-regional forums on sustainable development as a further means to contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

12. **Stress** that reducing vulnerability to climate change is a global challenge faced by all, and in particular those living in poverty. We welcome the Paris Agreement, and take into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and we endeavour to build the resilience of people and communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disasters to ensure we leave no one behind. We encourage prompt ratification by all States.

13. **Reiterate** that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries. In these regards we welcome the progress made to date in the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, the Small Islands Development States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Program of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, for ensuring that no one is left behind.

14. **Look forward** to successful outcomes on relevant upcoming intergovernmental processes, including, inter alia, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, the United Nations Summit on Refugees and Migrants to be held in the General Assembly in September 2016.

15. **Recommend** that efforts to advance the implementation and follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda including, inter alia, through ECOSOC Functional Commissions, UN Regional Commissions, specialised agencies of the UN, and the UN development system, as well as programmes of action such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 10 Year Programme of Action on Sustainable Consumption and Production, should focus on ensuring that no one is left behind and take an integrated and coherent approach to implementation to enhance these efforts.

16. **Take note** with appreciation of the Secretary General's first annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides a valuable account of where the world stands at the beginning of our collective journey towards a sustainable future, while building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business. Significant progress has been achieved in many areas, such as reducing poverty and hunger and improving health, but several groups remain disadvantaged and severe income inequality remains one of our biggest challenges.

17. **Endorse** the outcome of the process of consultation, on the scope, methodology and frequency of the Global Sustainable Development Report as laid out in the Annex to the present Declaration.

18. **Welcome** the participation in the High-level Political Forum of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders, and take note of their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We recognise the importance of civil society, private sector and academia to supporting the 2030 Agenda.

19. **Are encouraged** by efforts to ensure the United Nations can support the 2030 Agenda, including the Council's dialogues on the longer-term positioning of the System, called to inform the upcoming General Assembly's quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development, and the President of the General Assembly's initiative to align the agenda of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda.

20. **Look forward** to the continuing inclusive implementation of our ambitious 2030 Agenda and urge that all efforts are taken to reach the furthest behind first and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Global Sustainable Development Report:

Scope, Frequency, Methodology, Relationship between the annual SDG-Progress Report and Global Sustainable Development Report

Final text for integration in the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council

Scope

Recalling para 83 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Stress that the Global Sustainable Development Report is one important component of the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Further stress that the Global Sustainable Development Report will inform the high-level political forum, and shall strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. It would be available for a wide range of stakeholders, including business and civil society as well as the wider public.

Resolve that the report should incorporate in a multi-disciplinary manner scientific evidence, considering all three dimensions of sustainable development, in order to reflect the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. With its universal scope, the report should also consider the regional dimension, as well as countries in special situations. The report will provide guidance on the state of global sustainable development from a scientific perspective, which will help address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, provide lessons learned, while focusing on challenges, address new and emerging issues, and highlight emerging trends and actions. The Global Sustainable Development Report should also focus on an integrated approach and examine policy options in view of sustaining the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development. These policy options should be in line with the 2030 Agenda to inform its implementation.

Frequency

Resolve that a comprehensive, in-depth report will be produced every four years to inform the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Resolve that each year in order to strengthen the science-policy interface at the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, scientists who work on the report could be invited to provide scientific input into the discussion, including on the theme of the forum.

Methodology

Stress that the main principles to guide the methodology of the report should be objectivity, independence, transparency, inclusiveness, diversity, scientific excellence and integrity, and policy relevance. The report represents the result of an ongoing

dialogue among scientists from all relevant fields on sustainable development worldwide, ensuring a geographically balanced participation, assessing existing assessments, including the relevant reports on sustainable development from a variety of sources including from the UN system, as well as bringing together dispersed information.

Request therefore the creation of an Independent Group of Scientists to draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report.

This Independent Group of Scientists comprises fifteen experts, and representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines and institutions, ensuring geographical and gender balance. The Independent Group of Scientists will be appointed for each Global Sustainable Development Report by the UN Secretary-General in open, transparent and inclusive consultations with member states, including the possibility of taking nominations from member states.

This Independent Group of Scientists will commence its work by the end of 2016.

The Independent Group of Scientists will be supported by a task team, co-chaired by one representative each of UN Secretariat, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD and the World Bank, with the logistical support by the UN Secretariat. The task team will coordinate inputs from a network of existing networks, representing the UN, private sector, civil society and academia. Inputs can also be posted onto the HLPF Online Platform annually.

Relationship with the SDG progress report

Acknowledge the distinct but complementary nature of the SDG Progress report and the Global Sustainable Development Report, both contributing to the high-level political forum from different perspectives.

The high-level political forum will be informed by the annual SDG Progress Report, which is to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN System, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level.

The Global Sustainable Development Report will be more scientific and analytical, focused on the science-policy interface and will also inform the high-level political forum.

