

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

**Restoring the conditions for SDG progress in African Countries, Least Developed Countries
and Landlock Developing Countries**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. African countries and the LDC appreciate the UN universally accepted, integrated and mutually reinforcing goals that are helpful in tracking development as a global strategy for poverty reduction.
2. We note that before Covid 19 pandemic, African countries and LDC were not on track as far as progressing SDGs is concerned. The Covid 19 crisis is a major setback on the progress made in in implementation of SDGs. Therefore, focusing on restoring the conditions necessary for progressing implementation of SDGs is central to the governments. HLPF can help in coming up with strategies/models for a better inclusive future.
3. Reflecting on how African countries and LDC have been responding to Covid 19 Crisis, it is clear different countries have experienced challenges, opportunities and lessons learned and what is needed is an understanding of conditions that will restore progress in implementing SDGs for realization of a better future with quality of life for all.

4. Covid 19 crisis affected provision of public services especially in health, education, social and financial inclusion and exposed the vulnerable groups to suffering. The role of effective governance is critical to strengthening institutions to deliver public services. Governments systems were on trial as far as competence, accountability, (Integrity and transparency), inclusiveness, participation, subsidiarity with other levels, and inter-generational equity. Citizen raised governance issues regarding how inclusive were the health care systems, transparency of information and data, accountability for financial resources and the role of oversight especially procurement and value for money.
5. In conclusion, use of effective governance tools and effective country systems hold the promise for restoring the conditions for SDGs progress in Africa and LDC and LLDC.

I Thank You.