



NGO MAJOR GROUP STATEMENT AT THE 2021 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

“Mobilizing Science, Technology and Innovation and
strengthening the science-policy interface”

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen it is an honor to join you today on behalf of the NGO Major Group.

As the NGO Major Group noted in the introduction to the HLPF Position Paper from 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic intensifies the need for accelerated, united action. One year later this emergency is amplified by the overwhelming toll the pandemic has taken on almost all regions and sectors.

In addition to fighting COVID-19, we must challenge the underlying social, economic, environmental, and political factors that are exacerbating the effects of the pandemic. This includes economic inequality, environmental degradation, poverty, lack of representation and gender-based violence. Economic growth without ethical social development is self-defeating. We have to invest in empowering marginalized groups to leave no one behind and build forward.

We must leverage and scale science, technology and innovation in ways that provide win-win benefits to everyone and implement coherent policy at all levels to support their development.

For example, as we approach the UN Food Systems Summit, it is urgently needed to invest in the fields of plant-based innovation and alternative proteins. Less resource intensive and more plant-rich diets are crucial in mitigating the impact of our food systems on climate change and environmental degradation while providing many co-benefits, especially from a human health perspective.

Mobilizing science, technology and innovation can be one of the most impactful ways to tackle the challenges we are currently facing. It is imperative for all stakeholders to design strategies based on existing science and acknowledge that these tools have to benefit most vulnerable communities.

Thank you very much for your attention.



THE GLOBAL GOALS