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**Statement  
Introduction of Secretary-General Progress Report on the SDGs  
High-Level Political Forum**

**New York, 10:00 am, 5 July 2022**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

**I am pleased to present the Secretary-General's progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, and point to the great efforts that are needed to realize the 2030 agenda and emerge from the multiple crises.**

**Even before the pandemic, the progress had been slow in fulfilling the SDGs. As the world enters the third year of the COVID-19 crisis, years, or even decades, of development progress have been halted or reversed:**

- Nearly 15 million people died directly and indirectly due to COVID-19 as of end of 2021.**
- Global health systems were overwhelmed and many essential health services were disrupted.**
- An additional 75 million to 95 million people will live in extreme poverty in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic projections.**

- **147 million children missed more than half of their in-class instruction over the past two years.**
- **Women have also been disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic, struggling with lost jobs, increased burdens of unpaid care work and domestic violence.**

**In addition, in spite of the temporary reduction of CO2 emissions in 2020 as a result of the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19, global energy-related CO2 emissions rose by 6% in 2021. It warns that based on current national commitments, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14% over the current decade, which could lead to a climate catastrophe unless immediate action is taken.**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**The world is also witnessing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, with approximately 2 billion people living in conflict-affected countries by the end of 2020. Refugees and forced displacement are at the highest absolute number on record.**

**The outbreak of the war in Ukraine has caused food, fuel and fertilizer prices to skyrocket, disrupted supply chains and global trade, and caused distress in financial markets. Together with the refugee crisis, the impacts of the conflict may lead to a global food crisis and deal a significant blow to SDG progress. It is estimated that the war could cut global economic growth by 0.9 percentage point in 2022 and have implications for aid flows. Those with the highest exposure to the three-dimensional food, energy and financial crisis are being hit the hardest.**

**Overall, this report paints a worrying picture as the multiple and interlinked global crises we are facing – the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine and elsewhere – are putting the very viability of achieving the SDGs by 2030 at great risk. However, crises also provide opportunities for action and partnerships to transform social and economic systems in line with the SDGs.**

**Excellencies,**

**The urgency of getting the SDGs on track and to keep the 1.5-degree goal alive in these times of crises is clear.**

**First, we need to capitalize on the opportunity afforded by the recovery to adopt low-carbon, resilient and inclusive development pathway.**

**Second, we must address the vaccine inequity and urgently redouble our efforts to tackle the pandemic and aim to vaccinate 70% of people in all countries as soon as possible.**

**Third, we also need a full-scale transformation of the international financial and debt architecture. In the immediate term, concrete and coordinated action is needed to provide countries with the adequate fiscal space and liquidity, including by re-channelling unused Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to countries in need, providing effective debt relief and suspending or cancelling all IMF surcharges in the interim. In the longer term, this will require lowering the cost of borrowing on the market, integrating disaster clauses into debt contracts to protect countries from future shocks, and aligning all forms of finance with the SDGs and Paris Agreement for Climate Action.**

**Fourth, creating a global economy that works for all will require a new social contract to rebuild trust and pool resources to deliver global public goods.**

**In all this, greater investment in data and strengthened data capabilities will also be crucial in getting ahead of crises and triggering earlier responses, anticipating future needs, preventing crises from becoming full-blown conflicts and designing the urgent actions needed to realize the 2030 Agenda. In particular, better disaggregated data are needed to ensure leaving no one behind.**

**An urgent rescue effort is needed to rapidly change course, grounded in a comprehensive response to these interlinked global crises and a renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation as called for in Our Common Agenda.**

**I thank you.**

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