

Madam President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The High-Level Political Forum is **the world's main platform** offering political leadership and providing concrete guidance for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

What is hindering the timely implementation of SDGs?

We inherited

- **accumulated risk factors,**
- **mostly old-fashioned policies,**
- **mostly old-fashioned market regulations,**
- **mostly old-fashioned incentives for investments,**
- **mostly old-fashioned institutions**

But we have

- **transformative goals,**
- **rapidly changing technologies and science.**

We expect transformation from this combination of components. It is not surprising that transformation is happening much slower than what we wish to see.

So, what is needed to significantly accelerate the sustainability transformation?

- 1. Create national transformation strategies, aligned with SDGs. Everywhere.**
- 2. Align regulations with announced goals.**
- 3. Learn how to calculate all important externalities of actions (or inactions)**
- 4. Learn how to reduce the negative externalities of our investments and increase the positive ones across all three pillars simultaneously.**
- 5. Identify and prioritize on game-changing elements in the SDG implementation.**
- 6. Build transparent road map of implementation.**
- 7. Improve science-based validation mechanism of implementation.**

The good news is that we are **still in the game**, but now **the game itself** needs to be changed.

In fact, it is **now or never**.

You, Member States, do feel a strong sense of **ownership** over your development, and we must all sharpen the tools of the UN system to **track delivery** of commitments and **advise on correction of the course** of action where needed.

Financing the transition needed for achieving the SDGs remains a **critical challenge**, with the financing gap now exceeding \$4 trillion per year, up from \$2.5 trillion.

It is a huge amount of money. But let me invite our financing experts to **calculate and quantify the benefits of sustainability transformation**. Because what we invest should not be an add-on to the traditional way of development, but to change the course of it.

We must persist in our efforts to ensure that the international financial system **supports** the SDGs **much better**.

The Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development will serve as vital opportunities to reach an agreement on the **reform package** for the international - and consequently – national financial architectures.

In all these matters, we simply **cannot afford** to lose momentum.

Dear colleagues,

We **have** the knowledge we need to steer humanity out of the crises we face.

From updating Voluntary National Reviews to creating real time data sets on SDG implementation – we have **pioneering tools** at our disposal.

In two months, the SDG Summit will take place.

It will have to be a **non-conventional** summit.

The key challenge of it will be **credibility**: how to convince the world that, from now on, member states will do sustainable development **better**.

My vision – my hope – for the Summit is that it will result in the **supercharging and accelerating of the SDGs' implementation**.

The Summit will be **the** moment to make **new commitments** to **set in motion the gamechangers** we will need to agree on in only a matter of weeks.

But, for this to happen, there should be an acknowledgement of the global state of affairs, and a genuine recognition of how **desperately** we need to change **how** we think and **what** we do.

Key building blocks such as the development of “Beyond GDP” or the creation of a scientific evaluation system for SDG implementation are transformative elements that **we need to commit to**.

At the March UN **Water Conference**, you have endorsed other gamechangers, including the **integration** of water and climate policies and the **establishment** of a Global Water Information System.

The political declaration and the SDG Summit itself should **breathe a new life** into the sustainability transformation.

But this process **will not end** in September. It will likely not end in 2030 either.

The 2030 Agenda is – and should remain – our map, our **nautical chart**.

Colleagues, Friends,

Be **courageous**. Be **ambitious**. Be **determined** in your vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

Let us **keep the promise** of the 2030 Agenda: the promise **we have made** to our 8 billion stakeholders.

Let us **transform** the world.

Let us **save** the world.

Thank you.