

Middle-Income Countries: Overcoming barriers in achieving the SDGs.

Thursday 11 July 2024

4:45- 6:00 PM, CR 4

Script and Speaking points

At the beginning of the discussion, the presiding officer [the President of ECOSOC] will be chairing the session **will make brief introductory remarks and introduce the moderator and panelists by name and title.**

**The presiding officer will then give the floor to the moderator who will begin the session by briefly introducing the subject:**

**Ambassador HILALE: Opening and setting the tone for the panel (4min)**

***Madame President of the Economic and Social Council,  
Distinguished Representatives,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I'm honored to Moderate this Special session dedicated to Middle-Income Countries as the Ambassador Permanent Representative of Morocco, as well as, in my capacity of Chair of the Like-Minded Group for Middle-Income Countries (LMG-MICs) in New York.

***Allow me to deliver some remarks on behalf of the LMG-MICs:* We would like to express our thanks and deep appreciation to the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau members and for UN- DESA for preparing and organizing this timely session dedicated to Middle-Income Countries.**

**Middle-Income Countries, home to 75% of the world's population continue to face significant challenges as they strive to implement the SDGs. Despite being home to 62% of the world's poor, MICs often lack the necessary support and access to finance, especially, concessional and non-concessional finance, to address their mounting debt burdens as well as several climate vulnerabilities and social inequalities.**

**Less than 6 years separate us from the 2030 deadline and as we are crossing the last mile for the Summit of the Future to be held in September, and also paving the way for the milestone High-level Events: the World Social Summit and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, Middle-Income countries – specific challenges and multidimensional vulnerabilities- should not be left behind in these processes of designing future evidence-based policies for delivering on sustainable development.**

## ***Excellencies,***

The holding of this special session, also comes **5 months after the holding of the landmark Ministerial Conference of Rabat on Middle-Income Countries**, organized jointly with the United Nations Development Program and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, on 5 and 6 February 2024, in the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This Conference, held on the theme: "*Solutions to Address Development Challenges of Middle-Income Countries in a Changing World*" was the opportunity to **adopt Rabat Declaration on Middle-Income Countries**, which outlined that the classification as MICs should not remain an obstacle or a punishment for benefiting from an inclusive international development cooperation and from access to financing for development and technical cooperation.

## ***Excellences, Dear Colleagues,***

The last 4 challenging years marked by multiple and interlinked crises, **have proven that relying solely on GDP per capita criteria has led to the exclusion of Middle-Income countries from several forms of support in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.**

The LMG-MICs looks forward, in this regard, to the outcome of the Summit of the Future on establishing a High-level Group of Experts to advance the selection of multidimensional indicators that complement or go beyond GDP which shall inform the deliberations of the UN intergovernmental process on beyond GDP. This long-awaited process should deliver on means and tools to inform access to development financing, technical assistance, and international development cooperation at large.

*A final point to set the scene for this panel:* The upcoming session of the UN General Assembly will conduct the **2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system operational activities (QCPR)**. This resolution will be a key opportunity to emphasize the call of Rabat Declaration on all United Nations entities, funds and programmes to further advancing tailored support to middle-income countries and **thus effectively elaborate a specific inter-agency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan for Middle-Income Countries.**

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**Without any further ado, I now resume my role as the moderator of this session and I'm glad to introduce our first panelist: 1 ....**