

Your Excellency, Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC,

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Mr. Sameh Kamal, Organizing Partner of the Major Group for Children and Youth,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by commending the President of ECOSOC on the successful convening of this **2024 High Level Political Forum**.

Indeed, the theme of **reinforcing** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and **eradicating** poverty in times of multiple crises speaks to the **fragile** – and yet **auspicious** moment in which we live.

Likewise, the theme makes clear that it is up to **us** – as a united international community – to find sustainable, resilient, and innovative **solutions** that would enable us to effectively deliver on our 2030 commitments.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

Because deliver we must.

We are six years away from our 2030 target.

And we must leverage the **urgency** of our charge.

Today, **1.1 billion people** are living in multidimensional poverty.¹

And if we do nothing impactful, eight per cent of the global population – **or 680 million people** – will still languish in hunger by 2030.

We, therefore, must do **much more**, and **now**.

Much more to tackle the root causes of poverty and hunger and their wider links to conflict, climate change and economic shocks.

Much more to reinforce the strength of our institutions – and promote peace and justice for all.

Much more to forge the strong partnerships that will undergird the success of our efforts.

Much more, because a heightened sense of **urgency** is the **strongest motivation we have** to help us deliver transformative results.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

Excellencies,

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-multidimensional-poverty-index-2023-unstacking-global-poverty-data-high-impact-action>

The **2023 SDG Summit** saw the adoption of a strong political declaration and launched a **new phase of accelerated action** to realize the SDGs by 2030.

As contribution, I convened the first-ever General Assembly **Sustainability Week** in April – spotlighting the importance of sustainable tourism, transport, infrastructure, energy, while also underlining that debt sustainability is an inhibition to required fiscal space to achieve sustainable development especially in the most vulnerable developing countries.

The **Sustainability Week** offered a **broad platform** for the Member States and stakeholders to reflect on ways to drive progress **across the SDGs** – especially for those most vulnerable countries – in a way that infuses a sustainability dimension.

Today, this forum – the main UN platform for follow up and review the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – is a pivotal moment, **now**, to take this progress forward and advance confident, optimistic **action**, among others, to:

- tackle poverty in all its dimensions and manifestations,
- ensure sustainable food systems to end hunger,
- ensure access to food for all, everywhere, and
- adapt our systems for the efficient delivery of global public goods, especially health and education.

I look forward – with optimism – to a strong outcome of this Ministerial and high-level segment.

Because it is you – **Honourable Ministers and decision-makers, acting at both at the national and here at the global stage** – who can drive real transformational change to achieve our 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

Despite that we are significantly lagging behind, I firmly believe we have tremendous opportunities ahead.

The **Summit of the Future** – now around the corner in September – is part of a continuum of efforts to deliver faster and smarter on the **2030 Agenda**, the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** and the **Paris Agreement** on climate change.

The Summit's anticipated outcome – a **Pact for the Future** – must be transformative enough to justly telegraph the political will that will usher in a brighter tomorrow for all, everywhere.

It must also choreograph the direction towards a more **equitable international financial system** – one that addresses the crippling debt crisis and improves the chances for the achievement of the SDGs by developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Perhaps most of all, the Summit of the Future must reignite public confidence from our **8 billion constituents** and mend the deficit of **trust** among Member States, and between Governments and the peoples.

The expectations from this Summit are understandably high – especially among those with the most to lose if we fail to meet the moment.

I take this opportunity to call on Member States and stakeholders alike to be creative, inclusive and above all, **bold** in ensuring that the Pact emanating from the Summit is worthy of

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Excellencies,

Building on this anticipated success, we will work to ensure that all elements come together for the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** next year.

This event will be another pivotal chance – coming a few years before 2030 – to close the widening gap to finance the SDGs.

At the General Assembly, the **2024 quadrennial comprehensive policy review** of the UN development system will further bolster our chances for impact.

I conclude by also thanking Their Excellencies **Sanita Pavluta-Deslande** and **Paul Goa Zoumanigui**, Permanent Representatives of Latvia and Guinea, respectively, for effectively steering the process on the strengthening of ECOSOC and the review of the HLPF during this session to a successful outcome.

We cannot be numb to the glaring facts and figures – that demand a stronger ECOSOC and impactful HLPF.

To the reality that less than **one fifth** of the SDGs are on track.²

And that the gaps in our systems translate to **lives lost** on our watch.

We literally have no more time to lose.

Like Benjamin Franklin, we must use the keys we have to harness the speed and electric atmosphere within this forum to achieve a future that is safe, equitable and bright – and the shared vision of **peace, progress, prosperity** and **sustainability** for all, everywhere.

I thank you.

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²<https://press.un.org/en/2024/dsgsm1918.doc.htm#:~:text=Above%20all%2C%20we%20cannot%20lose,drive%20our%20progress%20so%20far>.