

UNITED NATIONS



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**MR. LI JUNHUA
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS**

**Remarks
HLPF Closing Session**

**23 July 2025, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
CR4**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues,**

**Let me begin by recognizing the tireless efforts of
Member States and stakeholders who infused this
year's High-Level Political Forum with such energy
and purpose.**

**Over the past eight days, we witnessed a powerful
exchange of inspiring stories, lessons learned and good
practices.**

This year's Forum attracted around 6,000 participants, including over one hundred ministers and other high-level representatives of governments.

The presentation of 35 voluntary national reviews (VNRs) showcased concrete and inspiring examples of policies and actions advancing the SDGs. With a decade of reviews, DESA's online database now holds over 400 VNR reports—a testament to countries' commitment to peer learning and exchange of good practices.

The vital contributions of Major Groups and other Stakeholders have added crucial depth to our discussions, and I commend your dedicated engagement.

The Ministerial Declaration that you have just adopted is a powerful reaffirmation of multilateral resolve.

It sends a clear signal: our shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is unwavering.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The 2025 HLPF generated a strong call for action on the SDGs under review – SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

Across sessions, there was a clear urgency to advance public health, gender equality, sustainable growth, marine protection, and global partnerships.

On global health, discussions underscored the deep links between poverty, inequality, and the realization of the right to health for all.

On gender equality, you emphasized the need to dismantle structural barriers, enact inclusive policy reforms, and defend the rights and agency of all women and girls.

On decent work and economic growth, speakers called for robust support for MSMEs, creating quality jobs, and unlocking innovation for inclusive, sustainable development.

On ocean action, the Forum urged the protection of marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of ocean resources – especially in coastal and island communities.

On partnerships, we heard calls for better coordination, more ambitious financing, and deeper international cooperation to keep the SDGs achievable.

The Forum also reaffirmed the importance of strengthening science-policy interface, investing in digital infrastructure, and harnessing indigenous knowledge, youth leadership, and multistakeholder collaboration.

Across the board, we saw how inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions are no longer aspirational; they are delivering measurable impacts on the ground.

Even amid global uncertainty, the rapid scientific and technological progress offers real momentum to overcome barriers and deliver tangible results.

Excellencies,

The Forum reaffirmed our collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. While the challenges are daunting, we are not lacking ideas or solutions.

As we move forward, let us embrace the transformative potential of multilateralism, digital cooperation, and strategic foresight.

Let us leave this HLPF with a renewed resolve, shared sense of possibility, and a reinvigorated sense of responsibility to lead the way forward.

By channeling our shared determination, we can — and we will — realize the promise of the SDGs and build a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for all.

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Thank you.
