

Statement by France, Germany and Switzerland OWG13

Distinguished Co-Chairs

I have the honour to speak on behalf of our troika France, Germany and Switzerland.

The work of this Open Working Group represents a remarkable endeavour, since its start more than 18 months ago.

The creation of this group was not an easy feat. We had to be innovative in the format and our way of working. Throughout the last 18 months, we saw steady progress, including in terms of setting our ambition high, creating a shared understanding of the transformative agenda that we all want and also slowly building a shared sense of ownership of the final outcome.

At this junction, we would like to thank and particularly congratulate the co-chairs for their unwavering commitment throughout.

We would really like to stress our thanks to you – if we have come this far, it is in no small part due to your stellar leadership.

We are now at the final hour - it is now up to us to cross the finishing line.

In our view, this requires flexibility from all sides. And this starts with us: there are parts that in our view could be improved. However, under the able leadership of the co-chairs, we have collectively been able to come a long way. This text presents a lot of "give and take". Therefore, we as a troika would refrain from reopening the text in regards to the issues that we are not satisfied with. Thus, we can accept the text as it is – as a whole – and thereby deliver on our mandate and call for adoption of the report.