

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals

"I invite all to come to the 2022 HLPF at the highest level and from all constituencies, with a lot of political will and accelerated actions to move the needle strongly towards sustainable recovery for all..." –

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council March 2022



On 14 March the UN Building in New York reopened its doors to children of staff and diplomats, two years after it closed its doors due to the pandemic. It gives us joy and hope to see them again in the lobby and corridors. But it also reminds us of a very basic question: What does the world have in store for the future of these children?

Well, what I see will very much depend on what decisions and directions we take today in the year 2022. We are at a crossroads. 2022 can be the year that we hit a reset button.

There is still time to if we look around us to see how we can help others achieve prosperity and equality, while preserving Earth-system resilience, maybe we can find strength within ourselves to change our mindsets, strengthen multilateralism and global solidarity and increase international cooperation through transformative change.

Today, just over 62 per cent of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID- 19 vaccine. More than 10 billion doses have been administered globally, and nearly 32 million doses are now administered each day across the world. This is great progress for high-income countries where 70 per cent of people are now fully vaccinated, but not so much for low-income countries, where a mere six and a half per cent are fully vaccinated and only 11.4 percent have received one vaccine dose. Clearly, the vaccine gap is huge and global solidarity is still lacking. We need to support the World Health Organization's Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by mid-2022. Without this step, we won't be able to achieve sustainable recovery from COVID-19. But the vaccination is only the first step. We need to improve the socio- economic situation, which was hit hard by the pandemic and direct our policies and investments to sustainable recovery. Yes, most countries have pledged to achieve carbon neutral and nature positive economic development. Yes, many have promised universal health coverage and social protection measures to be put permanently in place. Yes, all have said that preserving nature and sustainably using our natural resources through nature-based solutions is the only way forward. But how much have we really done? How many people have we lifted out of





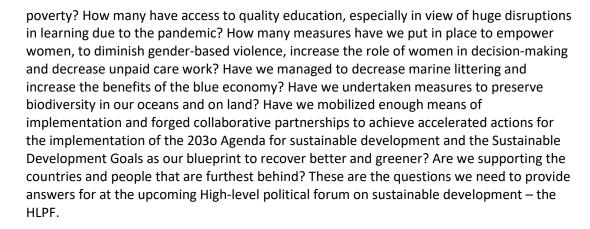


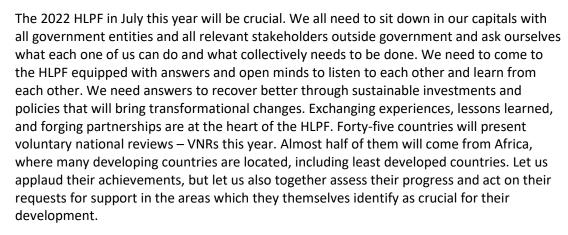






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We are only a little over a year away from the second SDG Summit. This July, the HLPF should launch preparations for the Summit. We should decide on things we can achieve by September 2023 and the mid-point review. The Summit will assess where we are and how much our situation has changed since the last Summit in 2019. We all know that COVID-19 set back progress on achieving the SDGs but it is also an opportunity to recalibrate on how we move forward to a greener, more inclusive path.

I invite all to come to the 2022 HLPF at the highest level and from all constituencies, with a lot of political will and accelerated actions to move the needle strongly towards sustainable recovery for all.

Let us be inspired to accelerate the actions needed so that in 2030 we will end the decade in a much better place than we would have imagined at the beginning of 2020. We will see a world where benefits are shared more equally, where all have access to opportunities, where those who are vulnerable can be protected and where our natural resources and environment are thriving under our thoughtful and nature-positive stewardship.









