



SERBIA

**Ministerial segment of the High level Political Forum on sustainable
development**

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STATEMENT

by

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STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AT THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE HIGH LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Your Excellency President of the Economic and Social Council,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

We are gathered here at the first Ministerial segment of the High level Political Forum after the adoption of the Transformative Agenda of sustainable development until 2030. The High Level Political Forum has the central role in overseeing the follow up and review process of the implementation of the Agenda at the global level and is a key mechanism for monitoring whether we are successful in fulfilling our commitments. The international community has decided at the highest level in September last year to transform our world, eradicate extreme poverty and achieve a sustainable future for our planet and future generations. Never before in the history of the UN has the international community set such a universal all encompassing and ambitious goal. Failure is not an option. We owe it to forthcoming generations to fulfill what was promised. In Paris in December we achieved a landmark breakthrough to contain and reverse climate change that must in the forthcoming period be further developed and built on. The key is that agreements that we reached in New York, Addis Ababa and Sendai are fully implemented. In the valuable Secretary-General's SDG progress report prepared for this session of the HLPF it is concluded that some of the targets that we have set in the 2030 Agenda might be difficult to reach. In the twenty first century it is conceivable that we can finally rid the world of hunger and extreme poverty, yet more than 800 million humans are still in extreme poverty and hungry and about the same number are illiterate. This unacceptable situation must be reversed. The theme of this High Level Political Forum is that no one should be left behind and indeed the quest that no country, nation or individual should be left behind is at the crux of the Agenda.

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and takes the SDGs seriously. In December of last year the Government established an Inter-ministerial working group headed by a deputy Prime minister and composed of representatives of all relevant line ministries, offices and agencies to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the Agenda. The working group will include in its work representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector. The next step is for the country to start the process of nationalization and prioritization of the 17 goals and 169 targets and their adaptation to our realities and circumstances. We are fully aware that the goals are interlinked and interdependent and that the silo approach must be avoided and that the goals must be implemented in their nexus. The development of the statistical indicators to monitor the realization of the goals and targets is an essential prerequisite. The proposed global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert group on Sustainable Development Goals is useful and we are looking

forward to the recommendations and action plan for sustainable development data of the High level Group for Partnership, Coordination, and Capacity building for Statistics that was set up this year by the Statistical Commission. The development of relevant data for monitoring the progress in the achievements of the goals is essential. We look forward to hearing the twenty two national voluntary reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the first year of its validity. We must learn from best practices and share experiences and challenges at the sub-regional, regional and global level. The decision that the Global Sustainable Development Report should be produced on a four year basis, with the first report being presented to the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019 with the strong involvement of the scientific community is important. By 2020 to be successful in the realization of the Agenda we must make sure that we are on a clear path to sustainability. The GSDR in 2019 will be significant indicator of our progress.

The Government of Serbia has recently concluded with the UN country team an interim five year Development Partnership Framework for the period 2016 to 2020 which is fully aligned with the achievement of the sustainable development goals and the chapters on our accession negotiations with the European Union. The development partnership framework contains five pillars and nine outcomes and covers areas of good governance, rule of law, provision of health and education services, economic growth and fostering employment, environmental protection and culture and development. We are working closely with the UN country team and The Resident Coordinator in the implementation, dissemination and popularization of the 2030 Agenda

After years of low growth and high rates of unemployment, as well as serious challenges caused by massive floods in spring of 2014, Serbia is set on a course of fiscal stability and of dynamic growth which could next year be among the highest in Europe. We are fully aware that growth and development must be sustainable. We will particularly focus on the protection of the environment, improvement of gender parity and the fight against violence against women and girls. Serbia is on the path of European integration and is a serious and dependable partner committed to peace, stability and reconciliation in our region. In that framework we put particular emphasis on the realization of SDG 16 on peaceful inclusive societies having in mind that peace is a precondition of development.

Thank you.