

National Statement by the Government of Canada

Written Statement for the General Debate

2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

July 16, 2021

Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Former Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations:

Colleagues and friends, I am honoured to be joining you from the traditional territory of Maskwacis Ermineskin Cree Nation.

It has been a very difficult year. We mourn the loss of life and are mindful of the increased inequality and vulnerability resulting from the pandemic.

Nevertheless, I believe with mutual respect and compassion as our guidepost for humanity, together we can move forward with hope, and build the world envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. A resilient and inclusive world that leaves no one behind.

The Honorable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada:

In Canada we have wasted no time, at home or abroad, to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are working hard to eliminate the barriers to prosperity and inclusion, especially for the most vulnerable in our societies. Because we know we all have a role to play.

The Honorable Jeanie McLean, Yukon Minister of Education:

Respect for human rights and the advancement of gender equality are at the heart of implementing the 2030 Agenda, and to recovering from the pandemic.

We know that all levels of government have a role to play in achieving sustainable development.

The Honorable Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montreal:

The fight against climate change is the great challenge of our time. The recovery of our economies must therefore be green and inclusive.

In keeping with the Paris Agreement, Canada and all Canadian cities are redoubling their efforts to achieve ever more ambitious climate-related objectives. We are committed to working in solidarity to ensure a healthy, safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

Peace Olanipekun, student, youth representative:

The pandemic has forced us to recognize that 'business as usual' is not enough. It has magnified where stronger efforts are required to ensure safer, more resilient communities.

It has shown us that economic recovery goes hand in hand with public health, and reducing inequality.

The Honorable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada:

Recently, we launched our National Strategy for the 2030 Agenda, an ambitious program that will ensure that no one is left behind.

The Honorable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development of Canada:

Internationally, our Feminist International Assistance Policy guides Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

However, we also recognize how our international assistance, our inclusive approach to trade, and our feminist foreign policy are mutually reinforcing. Together they guide our support for greater peace, inclusion, justice, resilience, and prosperity for all.

Above all, we are applying a sustainable development lens to all our international activities for greater effectiveness, coherence, and impact.

The Honorable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada:

To achieve a better and more sustainable future, we have to make sure that no one is left behind. We have to ensure that everyone has the necessary tools to achieve prosperity and be included fully in our communities.