



## **5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Political Forum**

New York, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

Honourable President of ECOSOC Ambassador Frederick Shava  
/ Honourable Vice-President of ECOSOC,  
Distinguished Permanent Representatives,  
Excellencies,

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great pleasure that I address here today the 5<sup>th</sup> High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, in the same place where almost two years ago a bold new global agenda was unanimously adopted.

To bridge the gap between the “World we live in” and the “World we want”, and in contrast with the Millennium Development Goals, we distinguish in this Agenda for Sustainable Development a universal action plan focused on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships - an Agenda with a Universal dimension, to be implemented by all Parties, and not just by the developing countries.



We see an Agenda that challenges all States and stakeholders to assume their responsibilities towards the achievement of each and every single SDG, leaving no one behind, and taking care of the most vulnerable first.

Portugal has stood up to that challenge.

We should emphasize that this Agenda is also, in the words of former UN Secretary General, Mr. BAN KI-MOON, "*a shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world's leaders and the people*". A most needed upgrade of the centuries old *social contract*...

Recognizing the inextricable link between the fight against climate change and the promotion of sustainable development, as underlined by UN Secretary General António Guterres, Portugal strongly believes that the implementation of the Paris Agreement goes hand-in-hand with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda - the climate agreement is the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Portugal played an active role in drafting the Agenda, including in the establishment of the common European Union position:



- i) by recognizing the need to give more attention to peace, security and good governance, with an emphasis on the situation of fragile States;
- ii) by promoting and advocating the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans; and
- iii) by integrating a strong human rights dimension that tackles inequalities, while paying particular attention to gender issues.

Portugal defends that this Agenda needs to be based on genuine shared responsibilities between the whole of society, as well as between developed and developing countries, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in addition to the traditional North-South approach.

Portugal has also been arguing for an adaptation of the United Nations development system to the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, to follow up on the degree of our ambitious political commitment, while ensuring efficiency and effectiveness across the United Nations system. We have received with satisfaction the first report of the Secretary General on this very important issue and strongly support his efforts to bring reform to the organization, taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the Agenda.



## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Portuguese Government adopted the first guidelines regarding its role and responsibilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in February 2016. Overarching coordination was given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures.

Portugal devised an institutional mechanism based on a “whole-of-government” approach, using existing structures to respond to these transformative global challenges, to reflect and meet the inherent cross-sector coordination requirements, open to the involvement of all stakeholders.

Institutional coordination took place through two inter-ministerial commissions, one in charge of overseeing the domestic implementation and the other of development cooperation, aligning our strategic cooperation programs with the SDG’s.

Each of the SDGs was allocated to a coordinating ministry responsible for its implementation, monitoring and review.

In order to ensure a “whole-of-society” approach, we promoted constant dialogue and consultation between all ministries and stakeholders, with a view to implement the Agenda in a cohesive and inclusive manner.



The country's baseline analysis on the implementation of the Agenda began with the collection of data and information in relation to all 17 SDGs, leading to a mapping of national policies contributing to its achievement.

In the preparation of the VNR, due consideration was given to the alignment of national and European strategies and programs with global commitments.

In this exercise, I would like to underline the crucial role of the National Statistical Institute and the Agency for Development and Cohesion, two organisms that have been providing important technical support to the Commissions and the coordinating ministries.

Local authorities also play a significant role in this regard, through a set of initiatives that, in the framework of their own autonomy, undoubtedly contribute to the implementation at the national level, supporting cohesion, reinforcing proximity and concrete action on the ground.

### **Ladies and Gentleman,**

Civil society engagement is paramount if we are to achieve the Agenda's ambitious Goals. Aside from the usual "vertical"



contribution of civil society to the drafting of public policies, we wanted to make way for “horizontal” cooperation.

With this in mind, aware of the holistic and inclusive nature of this exercise and seeking to foster partnerships, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together civil society representatives. Its chief purpose was to take stock of their recommendations on the work in progress at the Government level.

In addition, a public consultation took place in 2016, in a process led by the Portuguese civil society, to collect input on the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the Agenda, namely for the purpose of preparing periodic sectorial “shadow reports”.

Furthermore, I would like to point out the important work being done by UN Global Compact Network Portugal, not only to coordinate the multi-stakeholder platform SDG Alliance Portugal, but also to inform, raise awareness, promote, monitor and evaluate the contribution of the private sector and other civil society partners.

Recognizing that partnerships are both a necessity and a priority, as advocated by SDG17, it is my pleasure to give the floor to the UN Global Compact Network Representative and President of the SDG Alliance Portugal, for some words on the role that civil society has been taking on to promote the implementation of the Agenda.



[Presentation by Mr. Mário Parra da Silva]

1'30"

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Standing by our national commitment to sustainable development, Portugal volunteered to present its national efforts to review the implementation of the Agenda at this Forum.

Our Report reflects Portugal's aspirational vision on each of the 17 SDGs, identifies challenges, policies and initiatives contributing towards the achievement of the Agenda.

It also defines priorities which, without prejudice to the holistic nature of the Agenda, reflect our view of Portugal's present and future.

To better illustrate this, we have prepared a video presentation that we hope you will enjoy:

[CUE VIDEO]

5'30"

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Much more than just a ritualistic, bureaucratic exercise, the National Report stands as a testimony of Portugal's unwavering



REPÚBLICA  
PORTUGUESA

GABINETE DA SECRETÁRIA DE ESTADO  
DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS  
E COOPERAÇÃO

commitment to sustainable development, human rights and multilateralism.

As a call for hope and as a call for action, the 2030 Agenda inspires us to achieve a better, safer, more prosperous and sustainable future for present generations and those to come, leaving no one behind and reaching the most vulnerable first... and Portugal is firmly committed to its full and comprehensive accomplishment.

Thank you very much for your attention.