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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by H.E. Ghada Waly
Minister of Social Solidarity of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Before the 2017 Session of the High-Level Political forum on Sustainable Development
and the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council
Agenda item: General Statements'
(New York, 17-19 July 2017)

Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the excellent conduct of the meeting, and to express our appreciation for the effort undertaken by the Secretariat in preparing for this important session. I would also like to associate my intervention with the statements delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Chad on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

It has been two years since we adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, during which we have prepared our implementation strategies, established mechanisms for coordination, as well as follow-up and review, and are starting to measure the progress achieved, as well as the emerging gaps, in this ambitious process. The theme of this session, the eradication of poverty, remains the greatest challenge that we face, and the prism through which we must approach the implementation of the 17 SDGs.

Last year, Egypt was among the first group of 22 countries to have presented its voluntary national review at the HLPF. Implementation of the national sustainable development strategy, Egypt Vision 2030, with its four pillars on economic development, social justice, environment, and knowledge and innovation is under way. As we move forward on our efforts to achieve sustainable development, not only at the national level, but also at the regional and global levels, we continue to forge better ways of working together, to reach best practices across the wide range of countries' experiences, driven by solidarity, and recognizing the singular importance of the global partnership for sustainable development, of national ownership, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

While important progress is being made in our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, yet, I would like to share with you some of the important challenges and opportunities toward its effective implementation:

1. Ensuring sufficient means of implementation, including acquiring the sources and scale of development knowledge and practice: a reinvigorated drive is urgently needed to reach the transition from billions to trillions, and comprising ODA, FDI, public and private resources including domestic resource mobilization. Likewise, there is a need to build upon the wealth of sustainable development knowledge and experience that has been expanding, and to tailor it to the specific circumstances and needs of different countries. Accordingly, boosting national capacities, especially, in budget allocation exercises, data collection and analysis, monitoring, evaluation and reporting are essential preconditions for countries to achieve successful sustained development.
2. Acknowledging that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda: indeed, the vast range of challenges faced by different countries, as well as the critical gaps in implementation and follow-up hinder our efforts unevenly. Therefore, various global fora, the pinnacle of which is the HLPF, will remain pivotal for the sharing of different experience and exchanging lessons learnt. We also need to ensure sufficient policy space for a tailored approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda.
3. Acknowledging the importance of shared contributions: different countries, as well as civil society have an asymmetric ability to contribute in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. Nonetheless, the contribution of all countries and stakeholders remains critical in our joint effort towards its implementation. Indeed, we cannot overstate the importance of national planning efforts driven by a results-based approach with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector. Moreover, we cannot overemphasize the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women in our efforts to implement and sustain the SDGs.
4. Finally, we cannot close without emphasizing that without stability, security and peace, countries cannot achieve the 2030 Agenda, specially SDG 1, as countries stricken by conflict or terrorism suffer the multidimensional toll with increasing poverty and vulnerability, as it diverts financial resources and undermines all development efforts.

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Mr. President,

As we discuss the way forward in dealing with the above-mentioned challenges and opportunities, we should collectively promote the important role of the HLPF as a 'laboratory for sustainable development.' Egypt will remain actively engaged in our collective efforts to promote the vision of the 2030 Agenda for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

Thank you.