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## High-level political forum on sustainable development

Convened under the auspices of the Economic and

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

### Advance unedited version

### Discussion papers on the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, submitted by major groups and other stakeholders

### Note by the Secretariat\*\*

#### *Summary*

The present document is a compilation of the executive summaries of the position papers on the theme of the high-level political forum, “Accelerated action and

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\* [E/HLPF/2020/1](#).

\*\* The present document is a compilation of the executive summaries of the thematic papers submitted to the high-level political forum by the major groups and other stakeholders and does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,” submitted by the various major groups and other relevant stakeholders that have autonomously established and maintained effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290. The full reports are posted on the website of the forum: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020>.

## **I. Women**

1. Even before the onset of the crisis caused by COVID-19, the world faced mutually reinforcing crises: crises of inequality and environmental degradation, rising insecurity, protracted conflicts, growing fundamentalisms all happening alongside outright attacks on multilateralism, participatory democracy, civil society, and environmental and women human rights defenders.

2. Women and girls in all of our diversity are on the frontlines of this crisis, too: from the exponential increase in unpaid care work to our loss of employment and livelihoods, especially given our overrepresentation in informal work, to the rises in all forms of violence, including gender-based and domestic violence to the outright risk to our lives given our role as caregivers and healthcare professionals, to the challenges of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services. In addition, the possible rise in authoritarian measures taken by governments as well as power grabs by political leaders in light of COVID-19 threatens all civil society and social justice movements.

3. These crises are unfolding globally against the backdrop of several important milestones for the human rights of women and girls. This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which recognized that women's rights are human rights. This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which cemented the importance of women's participation in peace and security. And, of course, this year we celebrate five years of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which dedicated an entire standalone goal to ending gender inequality.

4. In order not to lose the gains and the promises of these anniversaries we celebrate, feminist and women's movements globally must be resourced, protected, and respected. Resourcing, protecting and respecting our movements not only is the

right thing to do, but it will also drive inclusive, accelerated action by creating the public pressure that generates political will.

5. Feminist and women's rights advocates have continuously questioned "business as usual" and have pushed for more just and egalitarian visions of the world. Drawing on our tools of analysis policy makers will be able to envision new ways of doing things that respond to the needs and the rights of those most left behind.

6. Quite simply, without empowered feminist and women's movements at the table, policies ignore gendered impacts and the dominant thinking that has led us to this moment of crisis continues unchallenged and unabated, and progress to achieve the SDGs will continue to stagnate, if not deteriorate.

7. Since the first High Level Political Forum in 2016, the Women's Major Group has consistently demanded that:

(a) Governments meaningfully include women and girls in all their diversity in the decision-making and implementation of the SDGs;

(b) Governments place the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity in the center of SDG policymaking and implementation;

(c) Governments and other relevant bodies, including the UN, invest in the gathering and analysis of gender data, including data that is sufficiently disaggregated;

(d) Governments and non-state actors protect and enhance civil society space, and protect the lives of women human rights and environmental defenders;

(e) Governments and other actors, including the private philanthropic community, adequately finance feminist and women's movements, as well as the gendered implementation of the SDGs; and

(f) We all work collectively to dismantle fundamentalisms and systems of oppression from patriarchy to neoliberal capitalism to militarism.

8. Given the central role that feminist and women's movements play in driving systematic change, governments and other actors should take seriously these recommendations in order to accelerate action for the achievement of the SDGs.

## **II. Children and youth**

9. Progress towards sustainable development is unacceptable. The decade ahead could mark a crucial turning point in the trajectory towards the 2030 Agenda and mobilizing towards it;

10. Impacts of the global crisis due to COVID-19 point to protracted shocks of human rights injustices, transgression of planetary boundaries, concentration of power, profit-seeking economic systems, historically-accumulated inequalities, and systemic undermining of resilience. The pandemic calls upon people and governments to work in solidarity, uphold universal principles of dignity and human rights, deliver on commitments to Universal Health Coverage, and enact multilateral actions commensurate with the scale of the crisis;

11. Age limits and age-based discrimination persists to impose structural barriers against young people, while their participation in decision making is too often a tokenistic exercise rather than a genuine intergenerational effort based on principles of meaningful youth engagement;

12. The UN, in its growing need for funding, is leaning towards the private sector without accountability mechanisms or rules-based frameworks around public-private partnerships.

13. In order to align our global architecture to respond to known, emerging, and future risks, the UNMGCY emphasizes the following:

14. Countries must work together to tackle the stigma, fear and misinformation. In line with UN's 75th Anniversary, commitments to global governance and multilateral efforts need to be upheld, strengthened, and galvanized to adequately anticipate and address current and future needs;
15. All people - regardless of their status - must be able to access high-quality services provided by strong social safety nets that are financed through the effective redistribution of wealth;
16. Failures in assessing, preventing, mitigating, and responding to risks through a whole-of-society approach need to be addressed before they become disasters.
17. In order to align our global architecture to meeting the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development frameworks, the UNMGCY emphasizes the following:
18. Uphold human rights, promote peace and security, ensure good governance, and exercise the rule of law to ensure well-being and sustainable livelihoods for all;
19. Overcome oppression and inequalities in all their forms, particularly associated with various sexual orientations and gender identities, bodily autonomy, cultural and language diversity, and those faced by persons with disabilities and indigenous groups;
20. Protect the global commons and establish legally-binding frameworks that strengthen environmental governance, especially in the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, including through just transitions to a decarbonized economy;
21. Promote integrated territorial development to address inequalities between different types of human settlements across the spatial continuum;
22. Align macroeconomic frameworks with the three dimensions of sustainable development, recognizing the economy as a subset of society and the planet;

23. Delink access to basic services from any migratory or other status. The role of different actors benefiting from undocumented migrants and abusive practices should be highlighted and stopped;
24. Employ knowledge systems from diverse sources, especially through open science, to inform and monitor decisions;
25. Establish anticipatory governance frameworks that ensure technology justice rather than perpetuate inequalities, while reducing existing technological divides and dependencies.
26. In light of the ongoing review process of the ECOSOC and the HLPF, the UNMGY emphasizes the need for the Forum to:
27. Provide political leadership and guidance by assessing progress, identifying gaps, highlighting best practices, and exploring new policy pathways, accounting for recommendations from other intergovernmental bodies and ECOSOC commissions;
28. Ensure rights-based modalities, meaningful participation, and protected spaces for critical segments of society, specifically MGoS, building on A/RES/67/290;
29. Establish official mechanisms as part of VNR guidelines to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement. VNRs should be quality-checked, especially methodologies for using data and engaging stakeholders, before submittal to the HLPF;
30. Increased resources must be provided to the Secretariat, as well as organizations of the UN system, for strengthening technical and substantive support provided to the HLPF.

### **III. Non-governmental organizations**

31. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the need for accelerated and united action from all stakeholders. To see an end to this crisis, all countries must work together, all individuals must commit to the actions needed to stop the spread, and all sectors must contribute to the work of saving lives, as well as implementing solutions that support recovery while reducing the risk of future pandemics. In this moment in history, we see what is possible when people unite, and we see the dire consequences when profit is put before people and planet.

32. It is difficult at this time to follow the patterned routines that guided our work before this crisis — and yet, in examining the work of NGOs in accelerating action and forging pathways for transformation in achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals, we see these very same lessons of inclusion and all stakeholder engagement in the shared aim of the wellbeing of humanity and nature, animals and the planet, with at its heart principles of peace, equity and justice. It is furthermore essential that emergency measures should not stifle independent voices, but instead must enable communities to raise their concerns and identify their own solutions.

33. Through the lens of the GSDR entry points, NGOs examined their own work and provided inputs from their unique perspectives. While that work can be identified within each of the multi-target pathways of the GSDR, more often, the work of NGOs crosses over even those more holistic lines. An action that might begin in a pathway of strengthening human well-being and capabilities, almost always and necessarily positively impacts the global environmental commons, or depends on shifting to sustainable and just economies, or urban and peri-urban environments, or builds or was built upon sustainable food systems. Indeed, the most impactful actions were multidisciplinary and cross-sector, blurring the boundaries of sectors.

34. Overall, true accelerators were not the specific projects, but instead the spirit and processes characterizing them. Therefore, the NGO-MG calls for a global commitment to



(a) Include all stakeholders in every process of sustainable development, valuing and empowering local capacity, wisdom, culture and contextualizing/localizing action

(b) Empower local communities with education, training, knowledge and skills strengthening, as well the right to lead their own sustainable development

(c) Foster input, participation and leadership from the people who have been left out of the systems that ensure wellbeing and opportunities to demonstrate their capacity

(d) Take action that is holistic, multi-sector and cross-disciplinary, and that ensures that human, environment, and animal life thrive

(e) Make systems of support flexible and adaptable to meet complex and evolving situations and needs

(f) Use transparency, open access to information, and improve communication across sectors and actors

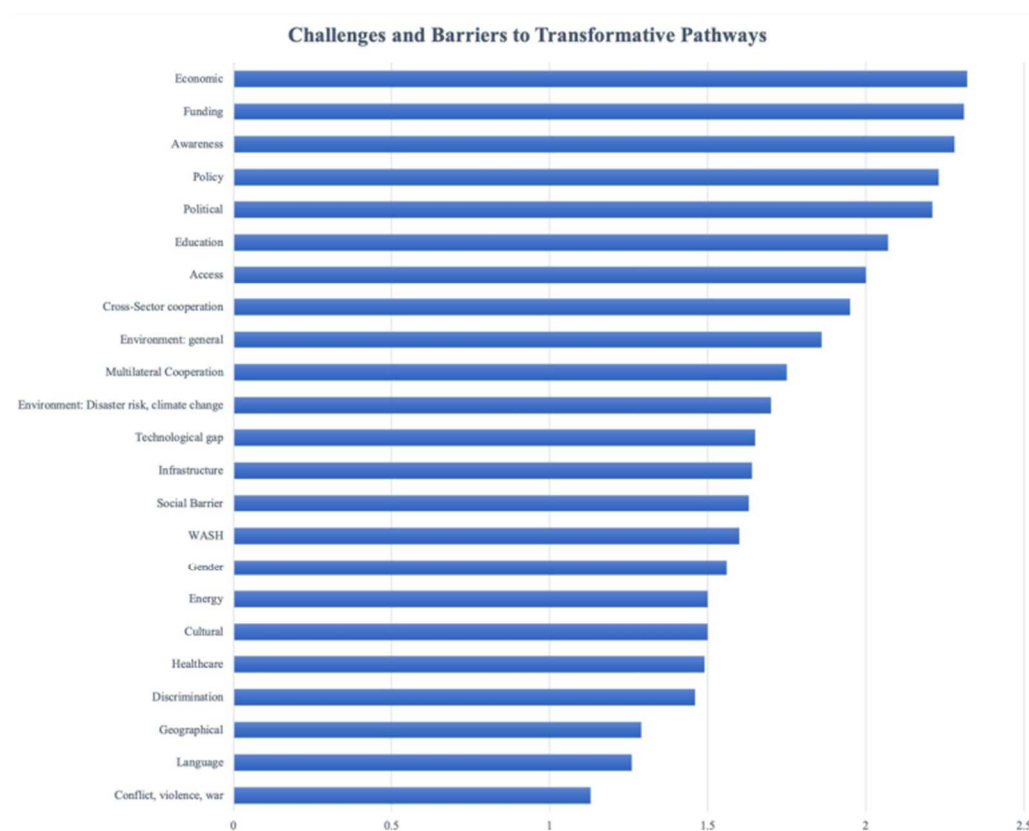
(g) Cooperate and collaborate across and within national borders, with all sectors and on all levels, to create long term solutions and resiliency while still supporting immediate needs.

35. At this time, we face not only a pandemic but also ongoing challenges to the achievement of truly sustainable development. For NGOs, the greatest barriers to accelerated action and transformation were the economic barriers of poverty, lack of funding for the work of sustainable development, the need for awareness, education, absence of policies, and lack of political will for action and accountability (see table 1).

36. However, if we use inclusiveness and local participation as our transformative pathways, collaborative and united effort in our actions, and truth, compassion, equity

and justice as our accelerators we will not only achieve Agenda 2030 but also address goals across complementary international agreements, frameworks and agendas.

Table 1. *Barriers to transformative pathways: Results of a survey of challenges to the SDGs as experienced by NGO Major Group members, 2020*



#### IV. Local authorities

37. **Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) share the concern of the international community and the UNSG regarding the need to embolden ambitions**

and accelerate the pace of transformation as we have entered the implementation decade. In these trying times, with the world facing an unprecedented crisis it is also becoming very clear that there is a **window of opportunity to bend the curve of the current unsustainable trajectory. As the pandemic is demonstrating, all development agendas need to be addressed as one and need to be underpinned by local service provision driven by strong LRGs close to the communities they serve.**

38. **In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, the provision of public services has proven to be essential for addressing the crisis. The efforts shared among LRGs, supported by their networks, civil society and the private sector through peer-learning and decentralised cooperation, will prove to be key to solve the interconnected challenges that our world faces, and accelerate action for the achievement of the SDGs.**

39. **Localization requires multilevel and multistakeholder coordination,** the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into local and regional plans and policies, and financial support and capacity development for LRGs to effectively participate. Rooting the 2030 Agenda's implementation in local and regional priorities would allow for the creation of a new framework of governance that is meaningful and practical in the day-to-day lives of citizens.

40. **The VNR reporting continues to show that localization varies widely across countries and it is critical to revise the strategies to mobilize and involve LRGs.** LRGs have been consulted in VNR processes in only 42% of the countries that reported to the HLPF between 2016 and 2019 and only 33% of LRGs have been involved in national coordination mechanisms for the SDGs' implementation. **If the SDGs are to be achieved, it is critical to ensure the involvement of LRGs in the VNR processes, and the availability of local, and gender-disaggregated data.** These should be seen as policy revision opportunities in order to create more traction and ownership of the Goals.

41. **We call on international systems and national governments to promote reforms necessary to strengthen municipal and regional governments' own resources** together with adequate regulatory frameworks that allow for the alignment of national, regional and local plans, in order to finally unlock the means of implementation for LRGs to carry out the goals.

42. **We underscore the necessity for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to create space to discuss innovative governance mechanisms between local, regional and national governments,** and call for an inclusive HLPF that promotes and institutionalizes strong dialogue with LRGs and stakeholders, and in which all spheres of government have a platform to follow up, present and exchange their efforts to avoid leaving local and regional governance and territorial cohesion behind.

43. **We welcome the inclusion of a session on *Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation*** to address measures to empower and support cities, local and regional authorities, territories and communities, as well as issues related to climate adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable urban development, infrastructure, culture, urban-rural linkages and people-centred services, among others. We strongly suggest to link this session with the Local and Regional Government Forum to be held during the HLPF 2020.

44. **We reiterate the commitment of our organized constituency towards the localization of all the universal development agendas,** as well as to fostering the development of Voluntary Local and Regional Reviews, promoted by Local and Regional Governments' Associations, with inputs from all LRGs in the territory.

## **V. Workers and trade unions**

45. SDGs achievement largely depends on SDG 8 progress, promoting inclusive policies at social, economic and environmental level.

46. The COVID-19 crisis makes SDG 8 more relevant than ever, emphasising the importance of occupational safety and health, protecting jobs and workers' rights, strengthening social protection systems, addressing unemployment and informality shocks. We support the UN SG report calling for a human-centred stimulus package to protect health and income of workers. We call on governments to put in place coordinated multilateral responses, such as the creation of a Global Social Protection Fund contributing especially to SDG 1 and SDG 3 achievement. These measures should be complemented by the following recommendations to accelerate SDG 8 and Agenda 2030 implementation:

**Sustainable and Just Economies:**

(a) Implement and enforce statutory minimum wages that guarantee dignity for all workers and their families. Ensure collective bargaining rights to achieve fair wages above the minimum wage level and promote collective agreements with sectoral coverage. (SDG 8, 1, 10)

(b) Establish a labour protection floor that guarantees fundamental workers' rights, an adequate minimum wage, maximum limits on working time and safety and health at work. (SDG 8, 1, 5, 10, 16)

(c) Extend social protection systems and access to universal health care to ensure a comprehensive and universal coverage to workers in all forms of work through a combination of tax-based social protection floors and contributory social security, in line with ILO standards (Convention 102 and Recommendation 202). (SDG 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11)

(d) Take concrete actions for the formalisation of the informal economy according to ILO Recommendation 204, supported by ILO Recommendation 202 on social protection floors. (SDG 8, 5, 10)

(e) Invest in quality public education systems, from early childhood through to higher education, and guarantee lifelong learning opportunities enabling people to acquire skills and to reskill over their entire lifetime to face the environmental and technological transitions. (SDG 8, 4)

(f) Support the establishment of an international governance system and standard(s) for digital platform business, as well as regulations to govern data use for the technological transition (SDG 8, 9)

(g) Put in place and enforce equal pay, care services and responsibilities sharing, and gender-based anti-discrimination legislation, including pay transparency measures, and ratify and effectively implement ILO Convention 190 and Recommendation 206 on violence and harassment at work. (SDG 8, 5)

**Energy Decarbonisation with universal access:**

(a) Take stock of the externalities of economic activity, such as the environmental consequences and establish statistical measures that go beyond GDP growth.

(b) Promote investments in key areas for sustainable work and technological innovations to reduce the impact of production on the environment. (SDG 8, 13)

(c) Design and implement Just Transition plans with workers' and employers' representatives to advance energy decarbonisation, sustainable cities and resilience of rural communities, leaving no one behind. (SDG 8, 7, 11)

(d) Provide technical, legal and financial assistance and implement public industrial policies favouring the transition to a low-carbon, circular production model, with better levels of research development and innovation and greater social, environmental and economic sustainability. (SDG 8, 13)

**Governance and collective action:**

(a) Institutionalise social dialogue processes and tripartism for the implementation of SDG 8 and Agenda 2030 (governance)

(b) Ensure the respect of the rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and the right to organise (ILO Conventions 87 and 98) to guarantee collective representation of workers and employers in social dialogue processes. (collective action)

(c) Improve the availability and comparability of statistical data (especially for less developed countries) to allow more comprehensive, robust and precise analyses of progress made on the SDGs, including SDG 8. (global governance)

## **VI. Education and Academia Stakeholder Group**

47. This sectoral paper centers around the role of education in achieving the agenda 2030, as well as aims to analyse, through different perspectives, why we are still not on track to achieve SDG4 by 2030. All the points put forward in this paper stem from the point of view that education and lifelong learning are to be treated as fundamental human rights and a public good. This paper also seeks to put emphasis on how commodification of education remains a major challenge towards viewing education as a human right.

48. The analysis is done through three sections, which seek to address the achievements, the challenges for implementation of SDG4 and the improvements necessary within implementation. The different dimensions of sustainable development are taken into consideration when looking into the achievements we have had so far. It is important to emphasize that the human rights-based approach is the basis for the achievement of the SDGs. This approach develops the capacity of

duty-bearers to meet their obligations on the one hand, and, on the other, encourages rights holders to claim their rights.

49. Recognising the progress made is an essential part in understanding what else needs to be done in order to find our way back on track with regards to the attainment of SDG4. In this regard, reference is made for instance to the tremendous progress towards the goal of universal primary education, and to the continuous movement towards gender parity in the last generation, as girls and young women in many parts of the world outnumber boys and young men in schools and universities.

50. The paper also seeks to highlight the contribution of civil society to the fulfilment of SDG4, which is many times underestimated. Civil society remains one of the main actors in providing education, through formal, non-formal and informal manners across the globe, and despite facing major challenges with the shrinking spaces within which it can operate, it continues to be at the forefront day in day out.

51. Needless to say, whilst appreciating the achievements is a good start, it is also important to thoroughly understand the challenges for implementing SDG4. Children, youth, and adults, especially in the global south, are facing significant barriers to effectively enjoy their right to education. This is due to both policy and financial challenges. Within existing and newly created policies across the globe, exclusion and discrimination remain significant barriers to achieve SDG4. This is also unfortunately accompanied by issues of gender inequality. Apart from this, conflict, climate change and migration are also significant challenges for governments and the international community making significant progress towards SDG4.

52. Furthermore, a problematic issue remains that while it is widely accepted that more resources for financing the Sustainable Development Agenda are needed, there is no consensus regarding the strategies that governments and international donors should adopt to protect the rights and interest of those who have been left behind.



53. One crucial section in this paper deals with what should be improved in order to achieve the Agenda 2030. The right to education is not limited to guaranteeing access to school services, but encompasses the content of education, teaching methods and school governance. The notion of transformative education should be positioned at the centre of policy debates on quality of education.

54. Lastly, in view of the growing threat of privatisation and commercialisation in, and of, education, and the regressive policies that are being witnessed in different countries and regions, EASG puts forward its beliefs that public funding should always aim to strengthen public education systems, as stated in human rights law.

## **VII. Business and Industry Group**

55. The unfolding pandemic crisis has challenged national governments, the international community and the private sector in fundamental ways. All attention is now turned to meeting urgent health and economic needs of people. Launching a global COVID-19 response is now an imperative and overarching focus for the United Nations, as it is for global business.

56. Key requirements to address the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis include support for:

- (a) Business continuity, through flexible and non-bureaucratic access to low-cost short- and medium-term loans to overcome liquidity challenges
- (b) Employers and employment, through reduced employment taxes or social security charges and extended temporary unemployment programs
- (c) Proper access to income support and social protection
- (d) Preventing or minimizing the disruption of supply chains, which are critically important for the economy and employment

57. But even as the global community, business and other stakeholders mobilize to defeat COVID-19, we must not lose sight of implementing the 2030 Agenda commitments and efforts—indeed, in most cases they are necessary to build more resilient economies and societies. The 2030 Agenda is a road-map for truly effective responses to alleviate the economic, employment and social impact of the crisis, to develop and deploy new healthcare solutions, and to lay foundations for a recovery that will reflect lessons learned from this pandemic and put us on track to sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

58. A basic requirement for harnessing the full potential of the private sector during this crisis is to promote enabling frameworks for business, by effectively and regularly assessing the impact of regulation on businesses and job creation. This includes easing the burden of registration and compliance for independent contractors and self-employed persons, improving access to credit and ensuring enterprise registration requirements do not act as an unnecessary barrier to innovation and employment. In addition, creating innovation-friendly framework conditions, in which start-ups can generate new ideas and inventions through sufficient R&D spending will help re-animate SMEs and entrepreneurs hit hard by the crisis' economic disruption.

59. Business as usual is now obsolete for the private sector, as well as for the international community. **It is in the DNA of business to turn challenges into opportunities and to innovate and develop practical and realistic solutions for the problems we face, and we are ready to join forces with governments and the multilateral community to respond forcefully to the crisis.**

60. Now is the time to be bold and innovative in the linked deliberations to deliver the 2030 Agenda by strengthening ECOSOC and taking the HLPF forward. Business and Industry calls on the UN to seize these linked opportunities to address both ongoing commitments and new challenges on economic, social and environmental fronts, working more closely than ever before with business.

61. We call on the UN community to crowd in experts and “do-ers” from the private sector, and to mobilize countries and other stakeholders to rebuild better and stronger throughout their COVID-19 recovery by working within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Member states have stated the need for business to actively engage, and both the GSDR and the SG’s recent report on Economic and Social Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have highlighted the crucial role of business.

### **Recommendations**

62. The Business and Industry Group is actively advancing sustainable development through voluntary initiatives, sectoral and thematic groups and via a wide range of multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will be key to enhance national implementation, mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national planning, policies, strategies and financial frameworks, while respecting national processes and ensuring shared “ownership.”

63. The potential of the private sector to work with the international community in building a prosperous and sustainable global economy and to address common sustainability challenges has not been fully realized. As several UN assessments have shown, the United Nations needs to improve the way it engages with representative business and with the private sector.

64. The proper implementation of the UN reform in the field is absolutely key. UN Resident Coordinators need to closely align with representative business and employers’ federations, local Global Compact Networks and other business initiatives and networks in the planning and implementation of Cooperation Frameworks and Agreements.

65. We urge governments to support and provide new interfaces and opportunities for the UN system, governments, businesses and other stakeholders to work together. These new options should reflect and advance: **Impact, Integrity and Inclusiveness.**

66. **Thematic Focus for Action:** The UN Decade of Action and Delivery should prioritize the essential enablers for action across the SDGs. For business, those fundamental enablers have to do with advancing human well-being and building human capacity, eradicating poverty, access to quality basic services, such as health, education, water, energy, sanitation, among others.

67. The Decade of Action should approach recovery from the triple shock of the COVID-19 crisis to healthcare, jobs, food security and economic activity on the foundation of basic good governance and rule of law. The GSDR identifies governance as the first “lever” for transformation and for good reason. At the national level, legal and government policy frameworks do not yet adequately integrate the SDGs. More collaborative structures at national and global level to share expertise, engage in dialogue and launch partnerships will be needed, and ECOSOC and HLPF should continue to build in meaningful opportunities for business and other stakeholders to observe and be part of the deliberations.

68. The ability of governments to deliver on the SDGs will be severely hampered until solutions to the Covid-19 crisis are underway. First and foremost, people who have lost their livelihoods have to be able to return to employment, and here the business community is on the front lines.

69. **With that in mind, business and industry believes the focus of ECOSOC, FfD and HLPF should be to catalyze global resource flows of technology and funding towards economic empowerment and growth, longer-term sustainability pathways and the co-creation of integrated solutions through cooperation and partnerships at all levels.** Particular attention should be dedicated to re-establishing livelihoods, strengthening healthcare preparedness and access; boosting infrastructure services like access to clean water, electricity, and connectivity with an emphasis on building in economic and social resilience.

70. **Responding to the pandemic without losing sight of the SDGs:** The know-how, expertise, and resources of business and industry are valuable to inform

discussions on further implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in light of the pandemic and its fallout. To ensure a more robust impact, a new institutional infrastructure is required to crowd in business know-how, partnership and resources in all meetings related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

71. Roles and responsibilities with clear deliverables need to be defined, not only at the national level and in working with private sector partners, but also in the UN. We ask member states to advance institutional infrastructure and resources for meaningful and inclusive business engagement in the Decade of Delivery. The business and industry communities are ready to step in and work together for sustainable and meaningful steps forward towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda.

**72. Revise HLPF governance and create institutional infrastructure for meaningful and practical business engagement**

**73. Increase trust, transparency and dialogue with the private sector at every step of the HLPF cycle:** Policy assessment and dialogue at the UN, regional and national level needs to invite and integrate business views on a more systematic basis. The private sector brings important expertise and knowledge on actions, measures and policies needed to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Business and Industry Major Group is ready to step up its engagement with UN DESA, UN Member States, Civil Society and all other Stakeholders to move the implementation of the SDGs forward.

**74. Strengthen peer review and shared learning through improved Voluntary National Reviews (VNR):** The Covid-19 pandemic should be an additional impetus to step up updates to the VNRs. The VNR process at national and international levels should be more inclusive, engaging and enabling greater recognized substantive input from business and civil society. It should also become more rigorous, using flexible yet comparable reporting formats, frameworks and metrics to identify challenges and gaps across goals. Lastly, VNRs need to be more action-oriented and provide concrete recommendations that can be monitored and evaluated.

75. **Improve monitoring of progress through better data:** More quality data are needed to monitor progress on SDG targets. An up-to-date and open database on the SDGs would be an important step to make this information easily accessible and actionable, and to track progress.

76. **Pursue more determined follow-up to the HLPF at the national level, including in the framing and development of the VNRs:** The SDG actions take place at national and local levels. The HLPF and VNR processes are not ends in themselves, they serve as a means to peer learning that triggers change on the ground. In this regard, business sees potential to connect Resident Coordinators (RCs) with local business groups, chambers and employer federations.

UN DESA should consider implementation of a consultation process to identify measures to strengthen information, discussion and monitoring/tracking on follow-up activities related to VNRs.

77. **Build connections between the RCs and national employers and chamber organizations to advance implementation and build capacity**

RCs will be important catalysts for mobilizing domestic resources by government and private sector players toward linked SDG + COVID- 19 policy development and actions. They are also well-placed to serve as a bridge between global efforts and businesses on the group. We encourage the UN to invite RCs to make those connections, and we are available to assist where needed to identify the appropriate contacts country by country.

78. **Unleash the potential of partnerships with the private sector, with an emphasis on COVID-19 response and recovery, consistent with the SDGs**

79. As reflected in SDG 17 and throughout the 2030 Agenda, partnerships with the private sector are key to reaching the SDGs. In its next phase of work, ECOSOC and HLPF should mainstream collaborative approaches between the UN, governments, civil society, and business throughout the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Businesses and the UN will have to continue to think beyond corporate social responsibility to ingrain and animate collaborative efforts in other areas, whether in COVID-19 response and recovery, or in broader areas such as infrastructure, capacity building, education and connectivity.

80. The UN should launch an ongoing dialogue with business about how to incent and scale up SDG partnerships with business, to create measurable shared value towards the SDGs for all involved.

**81. Catalyze resource mobilization and synergies across COVID-19 response, stimulus and response, and prioritize the right enabling conditions to deploy private sector resources, solutions and know-how, making full use of multilateral trade and investment as well as domestic resources mobilization**

82. Inadequate financial resources from public and private sources are a major obstacle to achieving the 2030 Agenda commitments and pledges. While domestic resource mobilization continues to be a core pillar in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to help close this gap, donors from public and private sector entities will need to step in to address increased needs arising from the pandemic.

83. However, even with a robust plan incorporating financing for development, there is still a risk of not reaching a key target of SDG 16, which is to significantly reduce IFFs (illicit financial flows). The transnational nature of this issue requires the public and private sector to collaborate and integrate globally-led initiatives, supported by enabling frameworks on political and economic fronts, including strong rule of law, combatting bribery and corruption, and democratic and transparent governance.

## VIII. Persons with disabilities

*“We will fail to achieve the new international development agenda if we don’t consider disability inclusion at the starting point. To advance towards development that is inclusive of all, the CRPD and the SDGs should be used as mutually reinforcing tools”* - Catalina Devandas, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the

### Rights of Persons with Disabilities

84. In response to the Decade of Action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities (SGPwD) provides Member States and the UN system the following recommendations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for persons with disabilities around the world.

85. *Of utmost urgency in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities, we call on governments and the UN system to act immediately to protect and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.*

86. **Data:** We call on States to increase disability data collection and disaggregation, and include the Washington Group Short Set of Questions (WG-SS) in all household surveys and censuses to ensure that policymakers address gaps through evidence-based policymaking. Statisticians must start collecting data in priority areas using the WG-SS, inform policymakers, who in collaboration with DPOs in line with Article 4.3 must enact new regulations and laws to ensure inclusion and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

87. **A rights-based approach to development finance:** We call on States to introduce a rights-based approach to development finance to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are reflected in all fiscal policies and related programs aimed to reduce inequalities.



88. **Underrepresented groups:** We call on States to ensure that policies and programs are inclusive of intersectionality and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are incredibly diverse in their identities, and those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination are at further risk of being excluded from society. All persons with disabilities, and particularly those from underrepresented groups, in rural and urban areas, including persons with albinism, persons with leprosy, persons with psychosocial, intellectual, sensorial, and developmental disabilities, people with cognitive disabilities (or people with dementia) as well as children, youth, women, older persons, indigenous peoples and others with disabilities must have equal opportunities to contribute to sustainable development to truly achieve the SDGs.

89. **Accessibility:** We call on States to ensure that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others to the built environment, information and communication, technology and systems and other facilities in line with the CRPD and 2030 Agenda. To uphold this, the Secretary-General launched the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy to achieve sustainable and transformative change toward disability inclusion throughout the UN system.

90. **Capacity building:** We call on States to support DPOs with increased capacity and resources to fulfill the growing demand to provide technical expertise to governments and to follow international processes. UN Country Teams also should establish joint programs to bring governments, DPOs, and UN entities together to achieve the SDGs at the national level, especially for those most left behind.

91. **Humanitarian action:** We call on States to integrate the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action in all humanitarian action.

## IX. Volunteer groups

92. **Volunteers, and support for their efforts, are essential to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** According to the State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2018 produced by United Nations Volunteers, an estimated one billion volunteers make a difference on the issues that affect them and their communities, often in the most difficult of circumstances. As recognised by the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be realised without the 'contributions of millions of properly supported and enabled volunteers' and volunteer-driven organisations in both developing and developed countries. The transformative power of volunteering particularly has the potential to contribute to the Decade of Action if properly championed.

93. Although a universal phenomenon, volunteering does not occur at uniform rates and effectiveness, but volunteering is strongest when it is recognised and supported. National and local governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society, volunteer groups, and volunteers themselves have a role to play in **creating and sustaining an enabling environment for volunteering**. When these actions succeed, we unlock the power of volunteering and enable volunteers to make the greatest possible contribution to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity.

### Recommendations

94. The Stakeholder group representing volunteers offers the following recommendations to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for 2020, and beyond:

**1. Formally recognise the contribution of volunteering to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF 2020**

95. We encourage all Member States to include the contribution of volunteers in their VNRs. In 2019, countries around the world as diverse as Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Iceland, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone all included volunteers in their VNRs.

**2. Ensure that volunteer groups are fully recognised and supported in national plans and strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda**

96. We encourage every country to build volunteering into their plans and strategies. Several Member States have already passed legislation that supports and promotes volunteering. Currently, some 90 countries throughout the world now have policies or legislation on volunteering.

**3. Follow the lead of Member States by affirming their full support for the implementation of A/RES/67/290, which supports the participation of non-governmental actors**

97. We encourage all governments to continue to engage all stakeholders as contributors to and beneficiaries of policies that will allow us all to work towards the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, in 2018, resolution A/RES/73/140 – which was co-facilitated through the Third Committee of the General Assembly by the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Chile, Japan, and Russia, and cosponsored by 124 Member States – commends volunteers and calls on Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer involving and civil society organisations. This resolution also calls on Member States to include information on the scale, contribution, and impact of volunteering in future VNRs, and to engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the SDGs at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider citizen engagement.

**4. Ensure that the accountability, transparency, and review framework for the SDGs involves community consultation at all levels, including representation of the most marginalised voices, as well as the volunteers who work most closely with them**

98. We encourage all Member States to consult with volunteer groups and include volunteers and the most marginalised voices as part of the mechanism to review the SDGs at national and local levels. Volunteers and groups organising volunteers are working daily to meet the SDGs in their local communities. As such, they must be afforded an opportunity to be included in the drafting and tracking of policies that affect them

## **X. Ageing**

99. Accelerated action to achieve the 2030 Agenda for people of all ages requires public policies based on a life-course approach and on the human rights framework. The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019 (GSDR) highlights wellbeing as a key driver of sustainable development, and stresses the need to tackle inequalities and deprivations for all ages.

100. Demographic trends have significant implications for legislation, policies, programmes and services. In 2019, people aged 65 years and over accounted for 9% of the global population, with a projected rise to 12% by 2030 and 16% by 2050 (UNDESA 2019). Member States must plan for a world that is ageing.

101. The pandemic of COVID-19, which disproportionately affects older persons and those with underlying health conditions, highlights the importance of multifaceted cooperation and a whole-of-society approach to deliver well-resourced health systems that respond to all ages. The launching of the WHO “Decade of Healthy Ageing” will

be an opportunity to fully recognize that the world is ageing and to ensure that everyone can live a longer and healthier life. A healthy economy requires healthy people of every age.

102. Ageism and age discrimination present in legislation and public policies - such as mandatory retirement age or policies stipulating age caps for financial, legal and other services – and scarcity of specific data on older persons exacerbate existing deprivations, entrap older people in chronic poverty and deny them voice and participation.

103. In 2050, women will comprise 54 percent of the global population aged 65 and over and 59 per cent of the total population aged 80 years and over. Women experience greater economic hardship as they age due to a lifetime of gender-based discrimination, particularly in terms of education and employment, ending up with few savings and assets. They are also denied rights due to the intersection of ageism, widowhood, disability, invisibility and negative attitudes about their value and capabilities.

104. The SGA supports the GSDR recommendation that “social protection, including pensions and support for older persons and persons with disabilities, should not be limited to those who spent their working years in formal, full-time jobs” but should also include those working in the informal sector. We strongly support non-contributory, tax-financed social pensions and the urgent rollout of Target 1.3 on social protection floors.

105. Member States must adopt measures to prepare for an ageing population that will increasingly live in urban environments. Accessibility for all, regardless of age or ability, adhering to the principle of universal design, should be a priority in all infrastructure planning.

106. Rights, capacities and needs of older persons remain overlooked in humanitarian relief situations. Gaps in data collection about older persons during crises mask

impacts and needs by age, gender and disability. Older persons must be included in humanitarian assessments and planning, disaster preparedness, and response.

107. The SGA strongly supports the GSDR recommendation to base policies on ‘detailed and disaggregated longitudinal data that track individuals through the life cycle and across generations.’ Data must be disaggregated at a minimum of five-year age bands. We urge Member States to engage in the work of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and make use of its recommendations

108. Chronic poverty, inequality, income insecurity and humanitarian crises will affect all generations across the globe beyond 2030 unless life-course policies are adopted immediately. Age inclusive policies based on the international framework of human rights and intergenerational cohesion, based on intersections of age, gender and disability, among other aspects, will deliver income security, the best possible health, decent housing, food security, safety and enjoyment of rights throughout people’s lives.

## **XI. Asia-Pacific regional civil society organization engagement**

**We are not on track in achieving the 2030 Agenda.**

109. In Asia and the Pacific, despite progress on Goal 4, some goals are stagnant, and some are even regressing (Goal 12 and 13). While it is home to the fastest growing economies, the region also has millions of poor and undernourished people.

110. These shortfalls also need to be contextualized in the multi-dimensional crisis being lived by the people, characterized by **the public health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic; severe wealth inequality; environmental and climate crisis; as well as the crisis of democratic rights and good governance.** The pandemic further exposed how neoliberal capitalism has failed to protect people’s

rights and to deliver peoples' needs, including access to quality public healthcare and universal social protection.

### **Systemic Barriers to Accelerated and Transformative Action for Sustainable Development**

111. The HLPF's theme Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development will never be realised without **addressing the root causes of the systemic impediments** in achieving sustainable development.

112. Although the GSDR report mentions the negative impacts of the current **global trade, and investment regime and the corporate capture** of food security, there is no mention of its role in perpetuating unequal and destructive economic growth, as well its role in perpetuating inequalities between rich and poor countries, including through Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). Domestic tax laws, bilateral tax treaties, and trade agreements have been abused by tax evaders, including multinational corporations, in perpetuating **illicit financial flows (IFFs)** that are detrimental, especially to developing countries. **Corporate capture of governance and resources** worsen as solutions for sustainable development increasingly rely on public-private partnerships and investment protection policies that enable corporations to control our natural resources and crucial public services for profit. Big industries control technologies and large amounts of data in the ongoing **4th industrial revolution**, at the expense of vulnerable workers, and privacy of ordinary citizens. **Land acquisitions** are increasing due to the growing infrastructure development. The influx of foreign capital and investments in the region has contributed to increasing **militarisation and conflicts**. In many countries, the prioritisation of **military spending** diverts much-needed funds for services including education, health, and housing. Meanwhile, **patriarchy, casteism, feudalism and fundamentalism** continue to exacerbate the marginalization of women and other discriminated groups in the social, political, and economic spheres, including

unpaid/underpaid work done by women. We need universal access to well-being in a just, equitable, gender equal world.

113. In order to understand the interlinkages between the goals using the six entry points and their systemic issues, **we recommend HLPF to not cluster SDGs goals into entry points**. Instead, identify how each goal contributes to the entry points. Our concrete recommendations on the six entry points can be found in our full submission.

114. **On HLPF Review**, we reiterate our position to strengthen follow up and review with clearer principles on accountability and human rights. We highlight the importance of regional processes, including having regional VNRs which can support countries in terms of content and process. In order to formulate action-oriented policy recommendations, the conversation on SDGs at different levels urgently needs to shift to tackling systemic barriers.

115. **Our Decade of Action should be based on human rights and Development Justice**. A model that will not accelerate us to more inequality, environmental destruction, labour rights violations. A model that is based on **redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability to the peoples**.

## **XII. Together 2030**

### **2030 Agenda and its SDGs at a Crossroads**

116. At the time of submitting these inputs, the corona virus (COVID-19) has spread around the world, affecting over 1 million people and sending billions into lockdown as health services struggle to cope. The UN Secretary-General has reminded the international community that it has a plan to face the aftermath of this pandemic: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.



117. The Covid-19 pandemic reminds us of what fragile we are and the consequences of not hearing scientific evidence and acting together and timely.

**Six entry points, but only one joint effort**

118. As the theme of the 2020 HLPF thematic review is based on the six entry points in the Global Sustainable Development Report, we need to reflect on its gaps. Promoting focalization on single issues and providing high visibility to some SDGs while the most contentious ones –yet critical - are left behind may lose sight of interlinkages and weaken the holistic nature of the 2030 Agenda.

119. In addition, it requires taking into account that SDGs will not be reached without gender justice or excluding the voices of children, young people and women. To strengthen efforts towards those ends is not only a way to fulfill the 2030 Agenda commitments but a practical and operative need to mobilize the required capabilities to accelerate actions and to deliver on SDGs effectively.

120. Bearing this in mind:

(a) **On entry point 1 – Human well-being and capabilities:** When the GSDR states "People are the greatest asset in the fight for sustainability" it repositions people at the center, a fact that should be integrated into other entry points.

(b) **On entry point 2 – Sustainable and just economies:** Of the two opposing models before us, the one prevailing is that of increasing the gap between rich and poor and fertilizing the soils for inequalities growth.

(c) **On entry point 3 – Food systems and nutrition patterns:** Some in societies benefit from agriculture, both nutritionally and health wise and others do not, discontent and conflict are likely to result. It is essential to ensure that all people benefit from actions taken and that these are in harmony with nature.

(d) **On entry point 4 – Energy decarbonization and universal access:** World per capita energy consumption is increasing. Urgent measures in promoting decarbonization, investing in renewable energies, transforming the transport sector,

abandon fossil-fuels subsidies, and to act at both demand and supply sides are need to advance the SDGs.

(e) **On entry point 5 – Urban and peri-urban development:** More than half of the world's population lives in cities. Inclusivity is essential to leave no one behind. Urban high-quality public services, public education, health care affordable systems benefit particularly poor and vulnerable urban groups, including children and young people.

(f) **On entry point 6 – Global environmental commons:** The global environmental commons is an integrally interlinked living entity of which we are integral parts. Encourage countries to include references to planetary boundaries in their Voluntary National Reviews as a way to be accountable for their efforts to protect global environmental commons.

#### **Civil Society contribution and acknowledgement**

121. Alternative reports from Civil Society need to be taken into account as significant contribution to progress review and solutions supporting achievement of SDGs. Children as agents of change should be included as part of civil society.

122. **Together 2030** as a global platform is fully committed with the progress of a decade for Action and Delivery. We ask the UN and its Member states to do their part and to open and reinvigorate ways that let Civil Society contribute substantially.

### **XIII. LGBTI**

123. Extreme stigma, discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), reinforced by criminalizing and punitive laws and policies in many countries, continue to be among the greatest barriers to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) populations. These structural barriers prevent LGBTI individuals from enjoying their human rights, meaningfully participating in the implementation of the SDGs, and reaching their full potential. The possibility for LGBTI people to access their full economic rights, be fully productive workers, business leaders, and entrepreneurs is limited due to exclusion from educational opportunities, discrimination in hiring and promotions, as well as harassment and ill-treatment at the workplace.

124. There is ample room, precedence, and creativity to include LGBTI people in SDG-related actions in order to Leave No One Behind, design effective development programs and realize the SDGs. In light of the 2020 High-Level Political Forum Theme ‘Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’, activation of populations that are left (furthest) behind can accelerate action and is crucial for transformation and realization of sustainable development.

125. Although there have been positive outcomes in the implementation of the SDGs, severe barriers for the inclusion of LGBTI populations around the globe remain. For instance, criminalizing, pathologizing and discriminatory laws and policies make the realization of the SDGs impossible. Moreover, the lack of meaningful participation of LGBTI populations in decision-making and other political processes that affect them hinders their valuable contribution, and results in ineffective policies not targeted to their unique development needs.

126. Patriarchy and heteronormativity are root causes of gender inequality and gender-based violence, harming women and girls, gender non-binary or gender non-conforming people, as well as men and boys. To eradicate inequalities in line with SDG10, States must forbid discrimination based on SOGIESC, introduce laws and policies that protect LGBTI people, and promote a culture in support of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions and sex characteristics.

127. 69 United Nations Member States criminalize consensual same-sex behavior between adults. 31 have laws and regulations enacted to restrict the right to freedom of expression in relation to sexual orientation issues (known as “propaganda laws”). 41 have laws and regulations that limit the ability of sexual orientation-related civil society organizations from legally registering. 68 have laws criminalizing HIV non-disclosure, exposure, or transmission. These laws exclude LGBTI populations and people living with and affected by HIV, effectively leaving them behind.

128. It is also important to highlight that while LGBTI people share common experiences of marginalization based on SOGIESC, many also face intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, ability, class, socioeconomic status, migration status, and other factors that drive exclusion.

129. There is a need for accurate and complete data disaggregated based on SOGIESC. Proper data collection is one of the best ways to guide the concrete accelerated action and deliver transformation. Such data will allow for the formation of evidence-based laws and policies that serve to promote and protect LGBTI people’s rights. LGBTI-led organizations should be consulted in the data disaggregation and collection process.

130. A human rights-based approach to achieving the SDGs anchors implementation in State obligations established by international law. For instance, the realization of the right to health relies on the fulfilment of corresponding rights which address root causes of exclusion.

131. Finally, enabling meaningful participation of the LGBTI populations in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs would ensure that policies, programs and administrative measures address their unique needs in an effective and informed manner.

## XIV. Sendai Group

132. The current health crisis and its short and long term effects on social and economic development demonstrates the effects of our limited prevention, response and support systems. In order to avoid such a crisis in the future we need to build in better resilience for future challenges at local, national and global levels. It is evident that no individual, no community, and no nation is immune to disasters. With enhanced preparedness to face unexpected events we can build the institutional and community resilience to reduce the social, environmental and financial impact of these unexpected events.

133. The Sendai Framework provides invaluable guidance for taking action towards risk-informed development and the coherent implementation of the SDGs. We suggest six practical actions to strengthen resilience and sustainable development:

- (a) **Understand and incorporate the needs and priorities of those most at risk through disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data;**
- (b) Plan actions at local, national, and global levels through the lens of **risk-informed development** across all dimensions of sustainable development;
- (c) Reduce the risk of hazard impacts and other unexpected events **by addressing underlying factors** that directly or indirectly increase vulnerabilities.
- (d) Strengthen **resilience** from the perspective of those most at risk by taking a holistic, cross-sector, and integrated approach to the SDGs;
- (e) Diversify and **contextualize** our solutions, including by drawing upon indigenous wisdom, the innovation of youth and persons with disabilities, and nature-based approaches along with appropriate, inclusive technologies, so that we may widen the range of who is reached by those solutions;

(f) **Decentralise and localise decision making and resource allocation** to reflect the true value of investing in sustainable development and resilience in the places where those actions must begin;

134. The extent to which the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda will have impact in the real world will be determined by our collective implementation of those agreements in our communities and our daily lives. If we achieve to incentivize local SDG and resilience action, global goals can be faster accomplished. It is a whole-of-society **process** that will produce the solutions we seek: there is no magic bullet or perfect policy.

135. As the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, we seek to open avenues of cooperation, communication, collaboration and capacity building for **inclusive and participatory** disaster risk reduction in order to strengthen the resilience of our ecosystems and communities and to achieve truly sustainable and resilient development.

## **XV. Scientific and technological community**

136. The world is currently experiencing unprecedented disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in cascading effects and profound impacts upon health, social and economic systems worldwide, including potential long-term effects on sustainable development efforts. While the immediate priority for countries is to solve the health crisis and protect the most vulnerable, the COVID-19 outbreak offers in the longer term an important opportunity to rethink the very foundations of our societies and to move away from the existing system where inequalities in terms of vulnerability and environmental impact are structurally embedded. In that sense, the

COVID-19 crisis must become the great accelerator of transformations towards a more sustainable, equitable and healthy world.

137. Achieving a sustainable, equitable and healthy world requires an integrated transformations approach, such as that offered in the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019, which addresses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a comprehensive, systemic way, rather than as a collection of discrete goals and associated targets and indicators. With just ten years to go, countries and regions urgently need to design and implement integrated, context-sensitive and attainable pathways towards achieving transformation at all levels and scales.

138. Operationalizing a comprehensive and integrated transformation framework will require a greater contribution from the social sciences to better understand how transformations begin and unfold, and how they might be steered towards equitable and sustainable outcomes; collective processes to define where science is needed and where public and private investments should be prioritized to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; and stronger and more equitable collaboration across policy, science, civil society and other stakeholder communities at all levels and scales.

139. There is a special urgency to rethink the role and importance of technology to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and how it could be reoriented in order to more meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in a transformative way. The UN's global Technology Facilitation Mechanism should become a vehicle to assess whether the current stock of technology and knowledge is sufficient for achieving the SDGs and suitable for transfer across the globe.

140. Implementation and review of the SDGs should take into account the multiple threats, complex risks and interactions which may threaten progress if programmes are not sufficiently resilient. The conceptualization, identification and understanding of risk demands interdisciplinary integrated approaches from science, collaboration between science and policy, and cross-sectoral engagement by government.

Strengthening data collection and exchange are cornerstone activities towards this end.

141. For greater coherence and impact, the implementation of five major environmental policy frameworks – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the New Urban Agenda – should be better coordinated to form an integrated global agenda for action for an equitable, sustainable and resilient world.

142. Member States, regions and stakeholders urgently need to consider how they would respond to a situation of planetary emergency where both risk and urgency are high, in the face of mounting evidence that global environmental change will cross tipping points leading to cascading effects across multiple sectors and regions. Learning from the COVID-19 crisis will be important as it has shown that governments can act swiftly and resolutely in a crisis, and people can change their behaviour in the face of an existential threat.

143. The global institutional framework must be strengthened in order to accelerate action towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The review of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is a vital and necessary opportunity to convert the Forum into a knowledge-based, coherent, and action-oriented arena through improved evaluation and analysis of evidence-based inputs. In addition, the UN must take steps to ensure that the evidence-based inputs stemming from the multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) better feed into the HLPF.

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