



## INTERVENTION OF GUATEMALA GENERAL DEBATE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

In 2020, starting the Decade of Action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Guatemala reaffirms its commitment to the vision of development that the world initiated in 2015.

Facing the new reality that the world is going through, we regret not being able to share in person with our colleagues from all over the world.

We send our best wishes at this difficult times for all of us who are committed with the promotion of sustainable human development.

We celebrate the Seventy Fifth (75th) Anniversary of the United Nations and commend the holding of this High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, even in times of adverse conditions and which have forced us to reinvent ourselves and innovate using new communication mechanisms. Now more than ever, it is important to have sustainable development in the core of our efforts. It is time to place people at the center and promote innovative solutions and increasingly stronger partnerships.

In the midst of this unprecedented situation worldwide, we remember the spirit of the Transforming our World Declaration, and particularly, Guatemala remembers the wisdom of the sacred book of the Mayan civilization, the "Popol Vuh", with the principle "that everyone stand up, let no one be left behind", this coupled with a renewed vision of the prevailing need for a more just and united world.

We are convinced that it is essential that each country orients its goals and objectives according to its capacities, planning instruments and public policies, appropriating the common agenda in a pertinent and nationally suitable way that responds to its national priorities.

Guatemala has made progress since 2016 in carrying out an inclusive prioritization of the SDGs, integrating them into the National Development Plan K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032. Ten national development priorities were defined, as we explained in our second voluntary national report in 2019. It has been at the National Council for Urban and Rural Development, the regulatory body of development policies and par excellence, the participatory space in our country, where this appropriation has been generated.

Now, convinced of the need to move forward with implementation, the administration of President Alejandro Giammattei has formulated and approved the National Plan for Innovation and Development which set the stage for the General Government Policy 2020-2024, as a central instrument of public management in the coming years, which includes the development goals for its execution in the medium term.

In the General Government Policy, we have established 50 goals around five pillars, closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Social development
2. Economy, competitiveness and prosperity
3. Governance and security for development
4. Transparent, responsible and effective state and
5. Relations with the world

As well as crosscutting actions for the protection and conservation of the environment. All this, with the vision of ensuring that the development agenda is included in the national planning and budget for its implementation.

These advances have been the product of much effort and commitment, however we know that the country still has important structural gaps to overcome, such as the persistence of chronic malnutrition in children under the age of five, weak social investment for development, as well as the high level of vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Therefore, it is important to stress the relevance of reviewing the income classification schemes used to prioritize official development assistance. This review is essential for countries like Guatemala, which are classified as middle-income, especially during a crisis such as the one currently happening, because it is critical to have greater access to financing in order to complement the national resources that we have mobilized to achieve our goals. We also reiterate the need to promote appropriated national and regional monitoring frameworks, recognizing that there are still challenges in generating data and statistics to follow up on implementation.

In the framework of the High Level Political Forum, the Government of Guatemala takes advantage of consolidating the alliances that we have forged with national and international stakeholders, civil society, business and academic sectors, which have been part of the development agenda process in the country since its origin, always working side by side.

We are facing a Guatemala and a world, in full transformation. However, even in the midst of an unprecedented crisis situation, we are committed to promoting actions that accelerate the achievement of results that lead to the improvement of living conditions of our population as well as peace and protection of the planet.