



El futuro
es de todos

Gobierno
de Colombia

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2020

Statement by the Minister of National Planning of Colombia

Mr. Luis Alberto Rodríguez

Head of delegation

Madam President, Distinguished Heads of Delegation, dear delegates,

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are conceived as a clear roadmap to improve the well-being of all people around the world, based on a development approach that harmonizes three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. Through the 17 SDGs and 169 SDG targets, the main global challenges are addressed, with the major purpose of leaving no one behind.

Since its adoption in 2015, despite the great progress in the development path, in economic, social and environmental matters of the countries, it is evident that the rate of progress for compliance in many of the goals established for the 17 SDG is not what was expected, which is why, in the coming years, all the countries of the world, united, have to achieve our three greatest challenges: eradicate poverty in all its dimensions, combat inequality and injustice, and to face the climate change.

The challenge is even greater considering the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is leading the world to an unprecedented global recession, and measures to address it have had a strong impact on people's well-being and World economy.

It is in this decade of action and against the crisis caused by COVID-19, that the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals are reaffirmed today as our collective roadmap that is capable of generating the conditions to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities,



promote well-being and prosperity to all people and face the environmental crisis.

For Colombia, supporting its implementation is the only way to guarantee an effective recovery with environmental sustainability. We must avoid an economic recovery that does not consider environmental sustainability. Today, more than ever, the 2030 Agenda is consolidated as the first line of defense against the impacts of COVID-19.

Additionally, it must be borne in mind that the most affected by the pandemic are the vulnerable groups, and under the commitment to leave no one behind, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must continue to be the roadmap that guides the collective action of the international community, in order to emerge from this crisis as a more cohesive world on the bases of solidarity, cooperation, and multilateralism.

In the midst of this difficult situation, Colombia is committed to the protection of life and health and has taken actions aimed at guaranteeing the economy reactivation, as well as helping the most affected people by this crisis.

Among the measures adopted by the national government to prevent, address, contain, and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia and handle the needs of the most vulnerable and most affected citizens by this situation, it is worth highlighting the additional investment of approximately \$ 21 trillion Colombian Pesos in the health system in order to strengthen it.

Additionally, to guarantee inclusive governance and improve social indicators, the country has also established innovative schemes such as VAT refunds for vulnerable households and the solidarity income program, aimed at households in extreme poverty situations, poverty and economic vulnerability, which currently do not receive benefits from any other State social program, such as Families in Action, Youth in Action, Older Colombia or VAT Refund, and that their income has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, the Colombian Government joined the call of the Sanitation and Water for All - SWA



Organization in May 2020, to work on global responses that allow the universalization of these services during and after the coronavirus.

In addition to the efforts that countries are making against the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to come together to design and strengthen multilateral responses that allow us to address the problems that affect sustainable development and that do not exacerbate the environmental and climate crisis that the planet is facing. This situation becomes an opportunity to remember the benefits of multilateralism as the most appropriate institutional framework to promote cooperation between countries. In that sense, the vision towards the pandemic must transcend the national level and strengthen cooperative, coherent, inclusive, science-based, and people-centered global responses.

By virtue of the foregoing, Colombia calls for international cooperation and solidarity to be intensified to contain, mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences, especially for developing countries and the most vulnerable groups, with a view to building a more fair, sustainable, and resilient future. In this way, we will be able to return to the path of the 2030 Agenda and accelerate the fulfillment of the SDGs in the Decade of Action and Delivery in favor of the Sustainable Development.

Lastly, this is an opportunity to highlight that leaving no one behind will not only continue to be the guiding principle and target of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, but it will also become the main priority of the world today and in the coming years. The SDGs already define a promising way forward, therefore, it is necessary to accelerate its fulfillment through innovation, alliances, multilateralism, and the commitment of all Colombians.

Thank you.