



STATEMENT OF ECUADOR
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2020
New York, 16 July 2020

Madam President,

Ecuador aligns with the statement of Guyana on behalf of the G77 and China.

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has consolidated as the platform to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the Forum, leadership is generated, guidance is provided, experiences, advances and challenges are shared, and partnerships are fostered. We commend the efforts of States, the UN system and all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the Forum at these challenging times.

In Ecuador, implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a State policy and is aligned with the National Development Plan 2017-2021 "A Whole Life". In 2018, we presented our first Voluntary National Review (VNR). During the HLPF 2020, Ecuador is proud to present for a second time its VNR, among the 47 countries that shared with the international community progress and challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Ecuador's 2020 VNR was a result of an awareness and consultation process within Government and with relevant stakeholders. The document includes national and local government efforts, contributions from stakeholders, means of implementation needed for the Decade of Action, efforts to achieve the SDGs, and responses to face the COVID-19 pandemic.

VNR presentations are intrinsic to the HLPF, as it helps generate consciousness and involvement from all sectors of society, as well as peer-learning opportunities. We see as valuable that this year no parallel meetings were held during VNR presentations and consider that this practice should be maintained in future HLPFs.

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During the past years, we have made collective advancements to fulfill de 2030 Agenda, but much more is needed. Now, the COVID-19 pandemic affects the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions -economic, social and environmental-, exacerbates existing challenges and creates new vulnerabilities. We face the risk of losing progress achieved for year thought-out many areas, including on poverty eradication, reducing hunger, combating climate change, halting biodiversity loss, and reducing inequalities.

Among developing countries most affected by the pandemic, Middle-Income Countries face challenges such as weak health systems, high levels of indebtedness and limited fiscal space, and require international support, solidarity, and to be considered eligible for humanitarian assistance, health and recovery programs from COVID-19 pandemic.

We are concerned of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to people in vulnerable situations, including those with underlining medical conditions and older persons, the exposure of frontline workers and caregivers, that the risk of dying from COVID-19 is higher for men, and the devastating effects of COVID-19 on the rights of men, women and children.

We call upon the strengthening of national health systems, universal health coverage, preparedness, prevention and resilience, as well as equal access to medical supplies, medicines and future COVID-19 vaccines. International cooperation and solidarity are fundamental to combat the effect of the pandemic.

The eradication of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, remains the world's greatest challenge. We recognize poverty as not only the lack of monetary resources, but of a set of deprivations that people face in the enjoyment of their rights. Thus, the end of poverty requires attending conditions that go beyond income, such as inequalities, exclusion and access to services. Our country works on matters related to upward social mobility; the care of persons with disabilities; the wellbeing of older persons; access to housing and water; creating youth opportunities; and ensuring the rights of workers.

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The raising trend of hunger has to be reversed, preserving food supply-chains, reducing food loss and waste, ensuring the availability of water and sanitation, and enabling access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food for all.

We promote prevention and resilience as essential components of disaster risk reduction, to increase preparedness and to build back better, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

We restate our commitment to combat the adverse effects of climate change, in accordance with the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, to protect biological diversity and adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the CBD, and to combat desertification and drought and achieve a land degradation-neutral world, in line with the UNCCD. Economic, social and technological progress must be in harmony with nature and with intergenerational responsibility.

The level of ambition that the 2030 Agenda requires enhanced provision of means of implementation – financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer. We reaffirm the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities.

We require strong partnerships at all levels, including commitment from the private sector, civil society and academia, that have the potential to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and support countries and communities around the world to recover better, stronger and with resilience from the global crisis. Companies have to protect workers, suppliers and communities, prioritizing health and stability. Bold actions, science and innovation are essential to surpass the pandemic.

As we will soon commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, Ecuador renews its commitment to multilateralism. Our common achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in this decade of action, will bring us closer to peace, prosperity, wellbeing and a healthy planet.

Thank you, Madam President.