



**GOBIERNO de
GUATEMALA**
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**MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES**
MISION PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA ANTE
NACIONES UNIDAS, NEW YORK

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC
Multilateralism after COVID 19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th
Anniversary?
July 17th, 2020

Statement of Guatemala

Thank you for giving me the floor,

Guatemala welcomes the successful organization of the United Nations (UN) High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

My country is convinced that the work of the United Nation is vital for sustaining peace, the protection of human rights and the promotion of development, serving the most vulnerable and forging an inclusive future leaving no one behind.

It is for this reason that this 75th Anniversary of the United Nations represents an unprecedented opportunity to renew our commitment and define actions that lead us to achieve the purposes of the Charter of this Organization.

2020 has taken off in a completely unexpected direction, making us confront risks and threats for which we now realize we were not prepared.

Covid-19 is not only a health crisis, it is a multi-dimensional problem, all of which impact the areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. Regardless of the context generated by the pandemic, the goals set by the Government of Guatemala are framed toward the acceleration and fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as are our long-term vision. This crisis demands joint action from all countries, to redesign the concept of cooperation; it is time for global solidarity.

We must promote the strengthening of the model that allows us to move from a framework of cooperation to one of investment in which countries like ours can acquire our own capacities to reduce the gaps that today challenge our development.

Covid-19 highlighted how global problems and threats must be addressed from the multilateral sphere, joining efforts in favor of common objectives. Take possible actions based on the capacity of each State to contain the pandemic and find a cure to fight the virus.



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It is dangerous to approach the crisis solely from a political point of view. We must join forces and work on specific objectives: governments, civil society, academia, and multilateral organizations.

The coming months will be decisive in finding solutions that allow us to face the new reality in a responsible way. Global actions will indisputably impact the Sustainable Development Goals, and countries must take responsibility for our own development, but framed in a common route.

It is the right time to build resilience, and in the case of Guatemala, the demographic dividend plays a significant role. A country where 62 % of our inhabitants are under the age of 30, invites to invest in a youth with a desire for prosperity and in the construction of a better world.

The Guatemalan government has proposed improvements in the health system, as well as a range of social and economic measures, improvements in international relations, governance, transparency in public management and conformation of a solid rule of law. All these actions will add to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I also want to highlight the importance of paying attention to the message that the planet is showing us in alarming way. The confinement to which most of us have been subjected has given a breath of life to our common home, the earth. Climate change is a reality to which we cannot close our eyes. Today we see revitalized ecosystems, cleaner water sources, without the excessive pressure of pollution. Caring for the planet and a commitment to conservation are also crosscutting axes for meeting the SDG.

My country has committed itself, to work for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a future member of the Economic and Social Council, I reiterate more than ever Guatemala's commitment to the United Nations, to multilateralism, to peace and development for present and future generations. Let's build more inclusive nations together, promoting prosperity and respect for our planet.

Thank you.