



June 2023

Coalition for the UN We Need Statement Informal Stakeholder Dialogue on the SDG Summit Zero Draft Political Declaration

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Coalition for the UN We Need as a Youth Co-Lead of the Global Futures Forum.

The outcomes of the successful Global Futures Forum in March 2023, which brought together civil society and youth from around the world to amplify our voices in the official processes leading to the 2024 Summit of the Future, have now been consolidated in the interim [People's Pact for the Future](#).

Designed as a comprehensive and substantive contribution to the intergovernmental negotiations, the interim People's Pact sets out recommendations for a strengthened UN system under seven themes from development and the SDGs, to human rights and participation, and global governance innovation.

The draft Political Declaration provides a promising starting point for an outcome that must be ambitious, concrete and that will inevitably shape the agenda for the next seven and a half years as we look towards 2030. In this regard, based on the People's Pact, we propose the following to strengthen the draft text:

1. Firstly, language on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls must be integrated throughout the declaration. In particular, we propose that Paragraph 12 includes language on the removal of all structural barriers, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and further propose an additional paragraph is added to reaffirm commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - all based on agreed language from the Commission on the Status of Women as the principal body for advancing gender equality.
2. Secondly, on meaningful youth participation, for consistency, we recommend that when listings of stakeholders are made, youth must be included alongside civil society. Furthermore, in reference to Paragraph 15, we propose the addition of language based on the General Assembly Resolution for Establishment of the United Nations Youth Office so that an additional sentence is added to reaffirm the commitment to promoting meaningful, inclusive, and effective engagement and participation of youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in our work and across the United Nations system.
3. Third, we endorse the suggested improvements to the Zero Draft put forward by the NGO Major Group. We also recognize the potential of the Summit of the Future (SOTF) as an opportunity to



make additional progress on realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context we wish to highlight:

- 3.1. The Zero Draft's positive acknowledgement of the need to achieve the SDGs for current and future generations is welcomed and will be an important building block for the anticipated Declaration on Future Generations.
- 3.2. The NGO Major Group's suggested commitment to move "beyond GDP," and adopt new indicators to drive policymaking, would support efforts to make additional progress in this area at the 2024 SOTF.
- 3.3. We also endorse the NGO Major Group's suggested language reinforcing a human rights-based approach to achieving the SDGs, including implementing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as adopted by the UN General Assembly.
- 3.4. Finally, we support the call by the NGO Major Group to address the SDG financing gap and the need to transform the global financial architecture to make it more inclusive, transparent, and equitable. The Secretary-General has called in his Our Common Agenda Report for similar commitments at the Summit of the Future.

We look forward to working in partnership with all stakeholders, especially Member States, to ensure that this Political Declaration can realize its full potential.

Thank you.

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