

Statement on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

Wednesday, June 7th

Introduction

Excellencies and distinguished guests, on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, I would like to thank the co-facilitators for the open drafting process of the Political Declaration for the 2023 SDG Summit.

We welcome the draft's analysis of the multi-layered crises we are facing and the limited progress toward the SDGs. However, we note with concern that this analysis is not matched with actionable, time-bound and measurable normative and financial commitments to meet the urgency of the moment. The current business-as-usual approach is in fact detrimental to the vision of the 2030 Agenda for environmental integrity, human security, prosperity and dignity for all. Bold, urgent action is required to combat inequalities; address multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination, leave no-one behind and reach those furthest behind first. We therefore call on the co-facilitators and member-states to:

- Reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda is guided by full respect for international law, the UDHR, international HR treaties and other instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development.
- Ensure a strong intersectional lens that accurately reflects the needs, rights, and multiple forms of discrimination of all the constituencies recognized in the 2030 Agenda, centering women and girls in all their diversity, people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth and children.
- Reverse the global erosion of the rights of women, girls, and LGBTI people in all their diversity, by accelerating efforts to remove structural barriers, such as discriminatory laws, harmful stereotypes and norms; and address gender-based violence, the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, their under-representation in leadership and decision-making positions, and the curtailment of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Develop and implement an action plan to move beyond GDP that accurately reflects the value of women's unpaid work; pursue economic policies that further human rights, labor and environmental standards; and adopt fiscal and universal social protection policies to promote inclusive growth.
- Scale up efforts to finance sustainable development, including through cancelling debt; comprehensively addressing illicit financial flows; terminating Investor-State-Dispute-Settlement mechanisms; fulfilling and exceeding the 0.7% of GNI target for ODA; and assessing systemic risks posed by unregulated or inadequately regulated financial sector instruments and actors.
- Transition from unsustainable resource extraction to green economies with sustainable production and consumption, care and education at their core; protect ecosystems through cultural and context-based approaches that meaningfully engage communities; and implement the Climate Change Gender Action Plan and all other existing global and national climate commitments, prioritizing investments to address the vulnerability of persons who are most at risk.
- Commit to a "new social contract for education", promoting lifelong learning for all and addressing systemic inequalities.

- Invest in gender-disaggregated, intersectional data to inform policy-making at all levels and stages and enable meaningful accountability for HLPF and SDG Summit outcomes.

Excellencies, we are particularly concerned that this declaration does not include any reference to the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, who are official stakeholders to the UN sustainable development process. In line with the 2011 Busan Declaration, which formally recognized CS as an essential partner for development cooperation, we urge the co-facilitators to open up meaningful engagement modalities – beyond short interventions such as this one and written feedback to documents that is often disregarded – to ensure that this process and its outcome document strongly reflect and respond to the voices and realities of civil society partners at the local, national, and regional levels.

Thank you.