

INFORMAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON THE ZERO DRAFT POLITICAL DECLARATION

7 June 2023

SUMMARY

On 7 June 2023, UN DESA, in partnership with the SDG Action Campaign, hosted a [virtual informal Stakeholder Dialogue](#) to provide civil society organizations, networks, major groups and other stakeholders with an opportunity to provide inputs to the [SDG Summit Zero Draft Political Declaration](#). The Dialogue featured welcoming remarks from Mr. Neil Pierre, UN DESA, and Ms. Marina Ponti, UN SDG Action Campaign, and the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process, H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen of Ireland and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed bin Saif-Al Thani of Qatar, as well as 14 panelists who provided inputs. The Dialogue also included an interactive survey for participants to share their hopes for the SDG summit and a visual scribe who illustrated the key elements of the discussion. Over 1,600 people from 140 countries registered for the event and more than 800 participated in the Zoom webinar. The session was also livestreamed on Facebook where it reached around 2,700 people by 11 am EDT on 7 June.

Mr. Neil Pierre - *Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination (OISC), UN DESA* - opened the informal Stakeholder Dialogue by reminding participants that the world is currently off track in achieving the SDGs and only 12% of SDGs are on course. He highlighted the opportunity provided by the SDG Summit and the Political Declaration to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. Mr. Pierre explained that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is grounded in an understanding of the engagement, cooperation and partnership required at all levels and encouraged stakeholders to bring their ideas, advocacy and support to the 2030 Agenda. **Ms. Marina Ponti** – *Global Director, UN SDG Action Campaign* – called all stakeholders to ‘[Unite to Act](#)’ with a clear vision and a sense of urgency around the SDGs to meet the challenge of the approaching 2030 deadline and shared a message of hope, possibilities and the great potential in coming together, uniting in all our diversity, to give humanity and our planet a beautiful, sustainable future.

Ambassador Fergal Mythen - *Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations* - reminded participants of the findings of the Secretary-General's Report on the SDGs and the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which show that the SDGs have been off track even since before the COVID-19 pandemic. He reiterated the need for urgent action that is cognizant of the challenges the world faces in achieving the goals while focusing on the implementation. It is this recognition of the facts and this commitment towards accelerating progress that should be captured in the Political Declaration.

Ambassador Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani - Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations - thanked the stakeholders for their active participation in the political process and underscored the importance of their contributions. Focusing on the consultation, Ambassador Al-Thani noted that the co-facilitators were able to hold informal consultations on the Zero Draft and reiterated their commitment to craft an action-oriented outcome document for the SDG Summit. She explained that the Zero Draft Political Declaration is divided into three sections. The first section provides an overview of achievements and setbacks while the second outlines areas that need to be addressed and the third highlights the importance of financing as a key component to putting the SDGs back on track.



Visual summarizing key messages from the welcoming remarks.

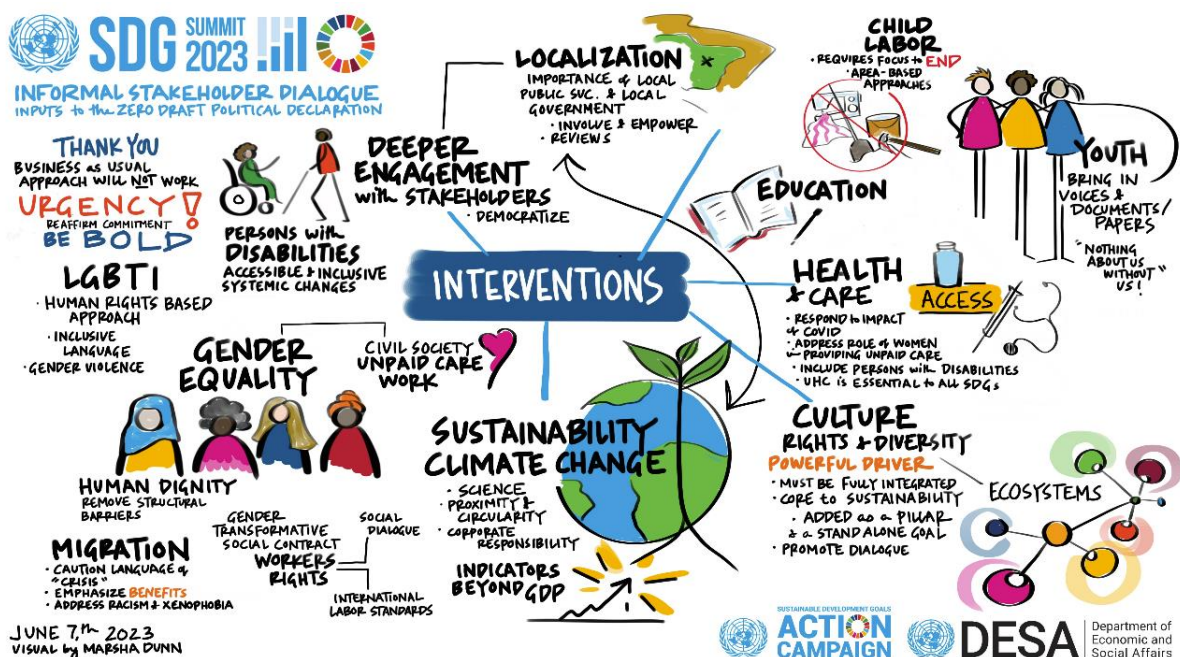
A total of 14 stakeholders representing different networks, sectors, constituencies and major groups shared their vision for the Zero Draft Political Declaration and the SDG Summit (please see the list of speakers and links to their submissions at the end of this summary). Panelists thanked the co-facilitators for their work on the Political Declaration. In their interventions, they called for action-oriented and concrete commitments and proposals that would accelerate progress towards the SDGs and the recovery from the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. This, according to stakeholders, should include a stronger emphasis on key pillars of implementation such as mobilizing financing for development, recognizing the transformative role of culture and the importance of multi-level and multi-stakeholder participation.

Stakeholders highlighted the need for concrete references to the role that major groups and other stakeholders can play as partners in promoting the achievement of the SDGs and the need to recognize the key role of local and regional governments. Further to that, stakeholders called on the co-facilitators to ensure that the language in the Zero Draft Political Declaration is in line with existing international agreements, including on climate change, biodiversity, work

and labor, culture, gender equality and youth. Stakeholders also noted that the Declaration should feature references to meaningful accountability mechanisms to review the implementation of the SDGs, including through voluntary national reviews (VNRs), subnational reviews and disaggregated data to capture existing inequalities.

One of the key elements that emerged from the discussion was the need to foreground the commitment to ‘Leaving No One Behind.’ This should include a focus on the most vulnerable countries and on the most vulnerable people. Stakeholders called for more efforts to ensure that the Political Declaration focuses on least developed countries and on removing barriers to their SDG achievement. They also highlighted the need to recognize the challenges the most vulnerable groups face and push towards gender equality, the empowerment of women and youth, the protection of children, and language on vulnerable groups such as the LGBTI+ community, people with disabilities and migrants. Gender equality emerged as a central theme throughout the presentations, including calls to integrate gender equality throughout the text and include gender disaggregated data in the review processes.

Stakeholders reflected on multiple SDG themes that they would like to see strongly reflected in the Political Declaration. These include education and life-long learning, social protection, universal access to healthcare, full and productive employment and decent jobs and a shift towards green economies for countries to be able to meet their climate commitments.



Visual capturing the key messages from the panel discussion.

These views were mirrored in the contributions to the online form and the online participation mechanism Slido which asked participants to summarize their expectations for the SDG Summit Political Declaration in one word (see image below). The key themes that emerged

- [Campaign Culture 2030 Goal](#)
- [Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism \(APRCM\)](#)
- [Children and Youth Major Group](#)
- [UHC2030](#)
- [International Disability Alliance](#)
- [Global March Against Child Labour / Stop Child Labour Network](#)
- [Coalition for the UN We Need \(C4UN\)](#)
- Mercy International Association
- [Global Water Partnership](#) (written statement only)