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ECOSOC High-Level Segment - *Multilateralism after COVID-19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?*

New York, 17 July 2020, 9h45-11h30 (NY time)

Statement delivered by Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Mr. Secretary-General,
Madam President of the ECOSOC,
Excellencies,

This year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in a virtual way as a pandemic hit the world. COVID-19 highlighted the interdependence of our societies. Only close cooperation will enable us to overcome this crisis.

In recent months, the UN system as a whole has been mobilized to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable and to reduce the health and socio-economic impact of the crisis. I would like to commend the Secretary-General for his leadership in the UN's response to COVID-19.

Switzerland is committed to supporting the proper functioning of the multilateral system, including to overcome the current crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world has changed significantly and is obviously no longer what it was 75 years ago. We have an opportunity today to reflect on *the future we want, the United Nations we need*.

In an ever-changing world, institutions such as the UN must also adapt. Only a strong UN will be able to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. The reforms launched by the Secretary-General help to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization. Switzerland contributes to this endeavor in several ways, notably regarding the reform of the UN development system. In particular, we support the

improvement of cooperation between the UN and other international and regional organizations in the field.

The ECOSOC, and in especially the High-Level Political Forum, plays a key role in promoting the three dimensions of sustainable development. We have a strong interest in ensuring that the Forum remains the central and multi-stakeholder platform of the UN system for a substantive and transparent exchange in the implementation of our commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The current crisis illustrates the need to adopt a long-term, holistic and preventive approach based on the respect for human rights. It is therefore more important than ever to consider the 2030 Agenda as our common roadmap to guide our responses in order to make our societies more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and peaceful in the future. We must ensure that we coordinate our actions to promote healthy lifestyles that respect the environment and are in line with the Paris Agreement.

Thank you for your attention.