

Zero draft - Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
and the ECOSOC High Level Segment

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"

*"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development,
expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"*

We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

[Introduction and framing]

1. Undertake to realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind. We stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centred, universal and transformative and that its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible. We reaffirm all the principles recognized in the Agenda, and emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We welcome efforts at all levels to implement the Agenda and recognize that after almost two years of implementation our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. We acknowledge, at the same time, that the pace of implementation must be accelerated as the tasks facing us are urgent, and that action is imperative for securing our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

2. Considered the theme of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", and also considered the theme of the 2017 session of the Council, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges", and recognize that they require that we take into account inherent interlinkages between different goals and targets of the SDGs, as well as the need to address the multidimensional nature of poverty and reach the furthest behind first.

3. Recall all relevant resolutions and processes in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), and call for their swift implementation.

4. Recognize the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. We are committed to a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed;

5. View youth and children as agents for change. They have a critical role in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Investing in children and protecting them from violence is essential to address multidimensional deprivations, end intergenerational poverty, and promote prosperity;

6. Commit to embrace diversity, to strengthen social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity, safety, and the dignity of all people **including indigenous peoples**, and to take steps to ensure that our local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful co-existence within increasingly heterogeneous and multi-cultural societies in our effort to leave no one behind;

7. Underline that policy integration **and cohesion** is essential to poverty eradication and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, requiring engagement by all stakeholders and that it is key to unlocking opportunities for poverty eradication at the national level. In that regard, we call on the United Nations to establish an **interagency task force**, guided by the Economic and Social Council, to provide further policy guidance towards our national efforts to enhance policy integration **and cohesion** for achieving the SDGs;

8. Note with appreciation the Report of the Secretary General on the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides an evidence base for our review, while also indicating the finalization of the global indicator framework. We acknowledge that while global progress is evident in many cases, it is uneven across countries and regions; and also insufficient across many targets and indicators;

[SDGs under review, as well as SDG 17]

9. Reiterate that although our review this year emphasizes SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14; as well as SDG 17, the integrated and unified nature of the SDGs makes it essential that we pay particular attention towards leveraging synergies and co-benefits, while avoiding or minimising goal conflicts and trade-offs. The indivisible and interlinked nature of the goals and targets, **and the need to balance the economic, and environment dimensions** guides and informs the in-depth review by the High Level Political Forum;

10. Believe that eradicating extreme poverty around the world will **require transformational actions in addressing root causes of inequality, and** investing in people's health, education and skills; and building resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks. International trade and foreign direct investment are key enablers of growth and can contribute to poverty reduction. We recognize that social protection systems and measures protect the poor and vulnerable, including against shocks such as severe weather, pandemics, food price volatility, and economic crises. We urge that countries, in the context of their own national plans and programmes, include measures that will amplify the poverty reducing impact of actions taken to achieve other SDGs such as those related to growth, energy, infrastructure, and inequality; identify populations most at risk of remaining in or falling back into poverty and place a special focus on reaching them **and ensuring their effective participation in decision-making**; and develop robust mechanisms to strengthen institutions serving those affected by conflict, fragility and forced migration.

Underline that ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting agricultural transformation are inextricably linked and major drivers for the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. Eradication of hunger, poverty, and achieving gender equality and peace cannot be realized without secure and equitable tenure rights to land and productive resources for women and men, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks. We are committed to realize these rights, invests in tenure reforms, equitable access to markets and appropriate technologies that leave no one behind and monitor progress on the targets on tenure rights, and those that are relevant to their realization.

11. We emphasize that investment in health contributes to reducing inequality, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and to the eradication of poverty and hunger. We reiterate the importance of traditional knowledge and innovation for achieving the 2030 Agenda. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrialization, as well as resilient and accessible infrastructure is integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs, promote productivity growth, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We welcome the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14. We recognize that the well-being of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of our oceans, seas and marine resources, and the need to take urgent action to protect the planet from further degradation;

12. Emphasize that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. There are mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and the eradication of poverty. However, gender inequality and the lack of empowerment of women persist worldwide.

13. Emphasize strengthening and promoting effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, by enhancing engagement of governments with global, regional and sub-regional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, donor community, non-governmental organisations, community groups, indigenous peoples, academic institutions, and other relevant actors.

[Means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology, and innovation]

14. Reiterate that the required revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development should facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. We are fully committed to realizing this aim, working together with all stakeholders. International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. We note in this regard, the increase in blended finance strategies through partnerships with the private sector, so as to scale up the amount of capital that can be mobilized to support public investment projects. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard we welcome the holding of the second ECOSOC forum on financing for development, and take note of its inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

15. Emphasize that harnessing the potential of science, **including traditional knowledge**, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels are essential to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the second multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We look to the STI Forum to continue to provide opportunities to strengthen dialogue between stakeholders and Governments and to promote an environment conducive to sharing and exchanging ideas and success stories and catalysing new initiatives and partnerships;

16. Stress the need to promote the participation and inclusion of youth and children in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through participation in its review processes. To this end, we take note with appreciation of the ECOSOC Youth Forum and commend Member States, the United Nations system, youth-led and youth-focused organizations as well as other civil society and private sector stakeholders for their work on youth in sustainable development. We urge Member States to ensure that youth education, skill development and employment are at the centre of all priorities to enable them to fulfil their potential as active members of society. We encourage Member States to include youth and children's perspectives in the development and assessment of sustainable development policies, strategies and programs;

17. Emphasize that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy. We recognize that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. We acknowledge both the transformative and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly advances in automation, on our labour markets and on the jobs of the future and, in this regard, seek to prepare our societies and economies for these effects;

18. Welcome the appointment of the 15 eminent scientists to draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report which will inform the 2019 High-Level Political Forum and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels;

19. Emphasize the critical importance of strengthened and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. We note with appreciation the work of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, which stressed that cross-sectoral and integrated partnerships that are aligned with the United Nations' values are instrumental in enabling collective action at all levels, and that transparency and accountability in partnerships would be fundamental in achieving sustainable development. To this end, we encourage the UN system to enhance its collaboration with partners and share knowledge and best practices in partnership approaches with a view to improving transparency, coherence, due diligence, accountability and impact. We also emphasize the crucial importance of collaboration, learning and cooperation at all levels, including, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[Countries in special situations]

20. Reiterate that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention. Common challenges across LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS include structural rigidities, levels of indebtedness, low share of global trade, remoteness, poor infrastructure development, low productivity, jobless growth, and limited resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks including the impact of climate change, desertification, and land degradation. There are also serious developmental challenges faced by many middle-income countries.

[Follow-up and review]

21. Commend the 44 countries that conducted Voluntary National Reviews at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, which were enriched by the past experiences shared by the 2016 presenters. They have shared valuable lessons learned, as well as challenges encountered. We welcome the efforts of countries to involve a wide variety of stakeholders in their Voluntary National Review processes, both in the preparations and in their presentations;

22. Encourage all Member States to make best use of the lessons learnt from the review process to enhance their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to consider conducting reviews;

23. Commend the 2017 regional forums for sustainable development for engaging in a systematic process of follow-up and review at the regional level, which provides useful opportunities for regional cooperation and peer learning, reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on agreed targets and identified challenges, as well as for convening regional contributions to the High-Level Political Forum. We further recognize the important role that other regional and sub-regional forums can have in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

24. Recognize that innovations for infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization are integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs, promote productivity growth, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We welcome the launch of the Accelerated Agriculture and Agro-industry Development Initiative PLUS (3ADI+) to re-energize the global partnership to achieve a sustainable and inclusive transition of agro-industry to eradicate poverty and food insecurity. We also welcome the Programme for Country Partnerships that mobilizes external partners and additional resources to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We look forward to receiving an update on the progress of implementation of these two initiatives;

25. Encourage continued support for adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change and strengthening of disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters;

26. Stress the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts **including ethnicity or ethnic identifier**. Additionally, we note the importance of data-driven decision making, innovation, and the need to build capacity for producing, analysing and using data to achieve the goals. In this

regard, we welcome the adoption of the indicators that have been agreed by the Statistical Commission;

27. Highlight the importance of localizing and communicating the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, from the national discussions to the community and grassroots level. In this vein, there can be no implementation where no awareness exists, and efforts should be made to reach out to all stakeholders, including local authorities, **indigenous peoples**, civil society, business, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, and the scientific and academic community;

28. Recognize the role of the United Nations system in supporting national measures for the achievement of the Agenda. In this regard, we note the importance of ensuring that the United Nations is fit for purpose, and encourage the UN development system to improve collaboration in delivering collective results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. We take note of the Secretary-General's proposals to address gaps, overlaps and build synergy, to improve the accountability, transparency, coordination and oversight of the system. We look forward to the Secretary-General's further proposals at the end of the year;

29. Pledge to continued inclusive and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.