



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 June 2019

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 17 May 2019, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 June 2019, from H.E. Ms. Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas, and H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden, co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The letter attached herewith transmits the revised draft of the political declaration and informs Member States of the informal consultation to be convened on Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 10:00 a.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. ESPINOSA'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission of Sweden  
to the United Nations, New York

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

10 June 2019

Excellency,

We are writing to you in our capacity as co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations on a political declaration as the mandated outcome of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) when it meets under the auspices of the General Assembly this year in September.

We have the honor to share with you a revised draft of the political declaration for the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The revised draft aims to reflect your comments and suggestions expressed in previous consultations.

Thus, as already announced, we would like to invite you to the next informal meeting on Wednesday, 12 June at 10:00 am in Trusteeship Council Chamber.

We appreciate your constructive engagement and continue counting on your active participation and support in this process.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Ms. Sheila Gweneth Carey  
Permanent Representative of the Bahamas

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog  
Permanent Representative of Sweden

Permanent Representatives to the United Nations  
New York, NY

## Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development: Political Declaration of the SDG Summit

### I Our Commitment

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, have met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 24 to 25 September 2019 at the SDG Summit<sup>1</sup>, to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. We stand firm in our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership - a plan that will free humanity from the tyranny of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and heal and secure our planet for future generations.
3. Today, we are launching a more ambitious and accelerated response to reach our common vision by 2030, and pledging to make the coming decade one of action and delivery. We commit to achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that are due in 2020.
4. We reaffirm the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. We will take more tangible steps to support the most vulnerable people and countries and to reach the furthest behind first.
5. We also reaffirm the principles recognized in the 2030 Agenda and recall that it is universal in nature and its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
6. We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We also resolve to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.
7. We resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to inclusive and quality education, health care, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.
8. [We recognize the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in pursuing sustainable development.] \*
9. We further reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities.
10. We remain determined to rise to the climate challenge with urgent and enhanced ambition to preserve our planet, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of

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<sup>1</sup> High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)



developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. We commit to conserve and sustainably use our planet's resources, to reverse the trends of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss and promote resilience and disaster risk reduction.

11. We recognize that greater efforts are needed to direct and align the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda with our Goals, and commit to accelerate the implementation of commitments across the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
12. In this endeavor, we must come together in durable partnerships between governments at all levels, with a range of stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth.
13. The 2030 Agenda and this political declaration are our promise to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations.

## II Our World Today

14. We recognize the many efforts at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We have seen a significant response from cities, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth and other actors. We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals are increasingly incorporated in national budgets and development cooperation efforts, and we recognize that private sector engagement in sustainable investing is growing. At the regional and global levels, the multilateral development and finance institutions have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals and taken significant steps to incorporate them into their operations.
15. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations Development System to better support countries with their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and we commit to continuing to support his efforts.
16. We commend the work of the high-level political forum, meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including its reviews of all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The Voluntary National Reviews presented by 142 countries bear witness to the efforts at the national level to prioritize integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies and to bring together all parts of society in the common endeavor of realizing the 2030 Agenda. We further commend the efforts of the United Nations Regional Commissions in support of Member States' actions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the contributions of Major Groups and all other stakeholders.
17. We welcome the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Secretary-General's Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals. We recognize the need to scale up action along the entry points for transformation identified in the Global Sustainable Development Report that include human wellbeing and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, energy decarbonization, food and nutrition, urban and peri-urban development, and global environment commons. We also recognize the need to use transformative levers such as – governance, economy and finance, behavior and collective action, and science and technology. The reports show that we have achieved progress in some areas, such as in reducing extreme poverty and

child and neonatal mortality; improving access to electricity and safe drinking water; reducing unemployment; and expanding the areas under environmental protection.

18. At the same time, we are concerned that progress is slowing in many areas. Vulnerabilities are high and deprivations are becoming more entrenched. While poverty is the greatest global challenge and its eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, assessments show that we are at risk of missing the poverty eradication target. Hunger is on the rise. Progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment is too slow. Inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in and between countries. Biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change continue at rates that could bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.
19. In many parts of the world conflicts and instability have endured or intensified and natural disasters become more frequent and intense, causing untold human suffering, and undermining the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our ability to prevent and resolve conflicts and build sustainable peace and resilience has often been fragmented and insufficient.

### III Our Call to Accelerated Action

20. We recognize the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also recognize the need for concerted action to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and their interlinkages with the Paris Agreement.
21. We welcome the voluntary actions pledged by leaders at the SDG Summit and throughout this week of high-level events.
22. We request the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the SDG Summit and the reports on SDG progress, and in the lead-up to the Summit to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, to engage governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in generating solutions and accelerating action to address systemic gaps in implementation, as we embark on a decisive decade for the 2030 Agenda.
23. To demonstrate our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda and reach the Sustainable Development Goals, we commit to:
  - a. **Leaving no one behind;** we will strive to place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable in our policies and actions, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. We intend to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavor to reach the furthest behind first.
  - b. **Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing;** in order to close the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals, governments, the private sector and other stakeholders need to increase the level of ambition in domestic public and private resource mobilization, strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable investments and honoring commitments to international development cooperation. We will ensure that policies and actions are more firmly focused on those furthest behind, aiming at financial inclusion, and supporting the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including women and youth-owned enterprises.



- c. **Enhancing national implementation;** we pledge to lift the level of ambition of our national responses to the implementation of the Agenda. We will aim to proactively mainstream the 2030 Agenda into our national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks, while respecting national processes and ensuring ownership. We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights.
- d. **Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions;** we will proactively strengthen institutions at all levels to ensure more effective, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. We will strive to equip institutions to better address the interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets to ensure a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy.
- e. **Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation;** we commit to empower and support cities, regional and local governments and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. We recognize their role as critical partners in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- f. **Building resilience;** we undertake to build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to disasters and economic and other shocks, including by supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- g. **Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership;** we recognize that the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals requires a global response. We renew our commitment to multilateralism, to find new ways of working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We commit to accelerating efforts to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development and we call on all stakeholders to continue to engage in the 2030 Agenda. We further commit to strengthening our efforts to sustain peace, finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respect international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- h. **Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development;** we intend to promote research, innovation and technologies towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the use of scientific evidence from all fields to enable the transformation to sustainable development. We will promote and support education to ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies. We encourage international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies and education.
- i. **Investing in data for the Sustainable Development Goals;** we commit to strengthen our national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to allow countries to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and

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statistics and to fully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in our monitoring and reporting systems. We encourage international cooperation to support the most vulnerable countries who face the greatest challenges in collecting, analyzing and using reliable data and statistics.

- j. **Strengthening the high-level political forum;** we pledge to carry out an ambitious review of the high-level political forum during the 74<sup>th</sup> session with a view to better address gaps in implementation and linking identified challenges with appropriate responses, including on financing, to further strengthen the effective and participatory character of this forum and reinforce the peer-learning character of the Voluntary National Reviews. We also pledge to advance our efforts in communicating the 2030 Agenda to the global public to raise awareness and inspire accelerated action.
24. We know the world we want. We pledge to accelerate our common efforts, now, and in the coming decade to reach this vision by 2030. Rapid change is possible and the Goals remain within reach if we embrace transformation and accelerate implementation.

\* Final wording pending separate discussions on G77 and China proposed language.