



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 July 2019

Excellency,

With reference to my letter dated 28 June 2019 informing the breaking of silence procedure of the final draft of the political declaration for the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the General Assembly, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 July 2019 from H.E. Ms. Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Co-Facilitators to conduct consultations on a political declaration as the mandated outcome of the High-level political forum on sustainable development when it meets under the auspices of the General Assembly this year in September.

Having consulted with Member States and groups, the Co-Facilitators are sharing the final draft political declaration which contains the suggested amendment to paragraph 20. The said final draft is now put under silence procedure until Tuesday, 2 July 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (New York time).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Co-facilitators for their able leadership and to all Member States and groups for the constructive engagement and cooperation with the Co-Facilitators in this final stage.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. ESPINOSA', written over a faint blue printed name.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York

1 July 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 refer to our letter of 28 June 2019 when we informed you that one delegation broke the silence procedure requesting the following amendment to the text (in blue below):

20. At the same time, we are concerned that progress is slow in many areas. Vulnerabilities are high and deprivations are becoming more entrenched. Assessments show that we are at risk of missing the poverty eradication target. Hunger is on the rise. Progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is too slow. Inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in and between countries. Biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, **discharge of plastic litter into the oceans**, climate change and increasing disaster risk continue at rates that bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.

After having consulted with Member States and groups with a view to finding a solution, we have the honor to inform you that the final draft attached to this letter, with the suggested amendment, is now being put under silence procedure until 6 pm on Tuesday 2 July 2019.

We appreciate your continued constructive engagement and count on your cooperation at this final stage.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest consideration.

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

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

Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
New York, NY

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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 Summit¹, 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 to free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and heal and secure our planet for future generations.
3. We 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.
4. Today, we are launching an ambitious and accelerated response to reach our common vision by 2030, and pledging to make the coming decade one of action and delivery. We will maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, including by ensuring ambitious and continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline.
5. 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 people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first.
6. 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.
7. We remain resolved, 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 remain resolved 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.
8. We resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage and quality health care, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.
9. We recognize the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle income countries, in pursuing sustainable development.

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

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10. 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 full human rights and opportunities.
11. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We express profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We emphasize in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent priority.
12. We commit to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserve and sustainably use our planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable consumption and production, to reverse the trends of environmental degradation, to promote resilience, reduce disaster risk, and to halt ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.
13. 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.
14. In this endeavor, we must come together in durable partnerships between governments at all levels, and with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth.
15. The 2030 Agenda is 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

16. We recognize the many efforts at all levels since 2015 to realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We have seen a significant response from national governments, 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 policies, plans, budgets and development cooperation efforts, and we recognize that private sector engagement in sustainable investing is growing. Global, regional and subregional multilateral development and finance institutions have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals and taken significant steps to incorporate them into their operations.
17. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reposition 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.
18. 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 welcome the efforts at the regional level, including by the United Nations Regional Commissions and the Regional Fora on Sustainable Development as well as the contributions of major groups and all other stakeholders.

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19. We take note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Sustainable Development Report, including the identified entry points for transformation and transformative levers for realizing the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge the potential of a systemic and holistic approach, taking into account interlinkages between Goals and targets. 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; and expanding the coverage of terrestrial and marine protected areas.
20. At the same time, we are concerned that progress is slow in many areas. Vulnerabilities are high and deprivations are becoming more entrenched. Assessments show that we are at risk of missing the poverty eradication target. Hunger is on the rise. Progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is too slow. Inequalities in wealth, incomes and opportunities are increasing in and between countries. Biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, discharge of plastic litter into the oceans, climate change and increasing disaster risk continue at rates that bring potentially disastrous consequences for humanity.
21. We recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination.
22. Violent extremism, terrorism, organized crime, corruption, illicit financial flows, global health threats, humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades.
23. 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 resilient, peaceful, just and inclusive societies has often been fragmented and insufficient.

III Our Call to Accelerated Action

24. 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. We also emphasize the need for concerted action across all relevant major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda, the Istanbul Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Program of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
25. We welcome the voluntary actions pledged by leaders at the SDG Summit and throughout this high-level week.
26. 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. We also call on the Secretary-General to organize an

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annual moment to highlight inspiring SDG action, in the context of the General Debate of the General Assembly.

27. To demonstrate our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to do more and faster. To this end, we commit to:
- a. **Leaving no one behind;** we will place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable in our policies and actions. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the agenda include all 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. 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.
 - b. **Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing;** in order to close the financing 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, strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable investments and deliver on commitments to international development cooperation. We will ensure that policies and actions reach those furthest behind, aiming at financial inclusion, and supporting the competitiveness of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including women and youth-owned enterprises. We will also strive to increase our level of ambition on the non-financial means of implementation, including promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, recognizing that international trade is an engine for development.
 - c. **Enhancing national implementation;** we pledge to lift the level of ambition of our national responses to the implementation of the Agenda, while respecting national processes and ensuring ownership. To this end, we aim to proactively mainstream the 2030 Agenda into our national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks.
 - d. **Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions;** we will proactively develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and ensure more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. We will strive to equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development.
 - e. **Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation;** we commit to empower and support cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. We recognize their critical role in implementing and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

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- f. **Reducing disaster risk and building resilience;** we undertake to pursue policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
 - 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 further commit to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respect international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to self-determination of peoples and the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of states.
 - h. **Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development;** we will promote research, capacity-building initiatives, 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 quality education and life-long learning to ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies that are able to adapt to rapid technological change. We will foster international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies and education.
 - i. **Investing in data and statistics 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 statistics and to fully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in our monitoring and reporting systems. We encourage international cooperation supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries, in particular 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 and effective review of the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level during the 74th session of the General Assembly 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 intergovernmental forum and encourage 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.
28. 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.