UK Statement ECOSOC-HLPF Review

15 February 2024, 10am, ECOSOC Chamber

Thank you, co-facilitators. The UK values our membership of ECOSOC – and we value the High-Level Political Forum as the annual point to review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are committed to supporting both ECOSOC and HLPF to be more efficient and effective, so they align with and help countries accelerate progress on Agenda 2030 and delivery of the SDGs.

We have three priorities for this review process:

Firstly, we want ECOSOC to **focus on advancing its mandate**: providing the data, analysis, policy, science, and coordination to help countries deliver the SDGs by 2030.

We encourage **streamlining ECOSOC activities** to reduce duplication between segments, attract strong participation, and ensure all discussions during the year come together at HLPF.

We would like to see a **stronger focus on the Goals which are most behind** – including poverty, hunger, gender equality, peace, justice, and strong institutions, climate change and biodiversity; and on the **areas where a concerted effort will drive swifter progress across the SDGs**; and the interlinkages between the **development**, **humanitarian**, and **peacebuilding triple nexus**.

Secondly, with only 6 years left to 2030, we think HLPF should review fewer Goals per year, and prioritise those which are most off-track. We welcome this year's focus in this regard.

We encourage all countries to present at least one VNR by 2030, to demonstrate their contribution to the SDGs as a universal framework. We would like VNRs to have more time for fuller assessments, technical discussions, and comparative reports on progress and commonalities between countries.

We would also like to see VNR reporting include a **greater focus on leaving no one behind, and better data on the most vulnerable**. We would like the UN to help provide more specific analysis for VNRs in these areas, as well as on support for the marginalized groups outlined in Agenda 2030.

As part of VNRs, we would like to see reporting on wider stakeholder contribution towards the SDGs — especially civil society and the private sector — as we know delivery involves a whole-of-society approach.

Before and after HLPF, we encourage member states to hold **national dialogues** to feed into and report back on VNRs and take forward actions to improve SDG delivery. We would also like to see **UN support** – **including at country-level** – **responding to and aligning with the most challenging areas**.

Thirdly, it is vital that all relevant UN bodies, civil society organisations and the private sector have **full and meaningful participation** in ECOSOC and HLPF events, negotiations and VNR processes.

We must ensure that ECOSOC is an **open, safe, and inclusive environment for civil society**, given their critical role in protecting and promoting human rights, tackling climate change and conflict, and holding those in power to account.

We would also like more **meaningful involvement of the World Bank, IMF, the WTO and OHCHR** to promote policy coherence with key international processes and agreements – especially on financing for development, climate and biodiversity, and the development-humanitarian nexus.

We look forward to discussing these suggestions further with you over the coming months.