

**Statement made by MGOS Representative at HLPF Ministerial Declaration first informal,  
27 March 2024**

Thank you to the co-facilitators for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Bonnie, and I am speaking on behalf of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders to respond to discussion questions 3 and 4.

Regarding **SDG1**, we know that the implementation of social protection floors alongside integrated delivery of other essential public services, like health and education, is one of the most effective tools to reduce poverty. States should guarantee universal social protection, ensuring that policies and programmes are child and age-sensitive, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, and shock-responsive to build resilience to a variety of shocks. To finance this, States should strengthen tax systems, close loopholes, and ensure that tax policy is progressive. They should also agree to a UN Tax Convention that delivers key financial transparency measures and provides the basis for genuinely inclusive and fair tax cooperation.

For **SDG2**, States should support livelihoods to ensure access to affordable and nutritious foods for all. They should scale up early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition by integrating nutrition services into health systems and fully finance humanitarian response plans to address malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Protecting and promoting breastfeeding and other infant and young child feeding is also essential for good nutrition and preventing early child deaths. International cooperation should also focus on regenerative agriculture that ensures healthy ecosystems and the right to community ownership of land.

**SDG13** recognizes climate change as an intergenerational threat that jeopardises human, plant, and animal life. We reiterate our call for an immediate end to all fossil fuel subsidies and a shift to renewables. High-income countries and historical emitters must fulfil the unmet pledge to mobilise \$100 billion annually, achieving a 50/50 balance between mitigation and adaptation, and deliver financing for the new Loss and Damage Fund to support low- and middle-income countries combat climate change and achieve just transitions.

The 2030 Agenda must be guided by full respect for international law, including IHL, the UDHR, as well as other human rights treaties and instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. Achievement of **SDG16** and the pledge to leave no one behind requires States to ensure a strong intersectional lens that accurately reflects the needs, rights, and multiple forms of discrimination of all constituencies, including but not limited to women and girls, people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and youth.

Working in partnership is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and **SDG17**, but stakeholders are rarely viewed as co-implementers. Millions of organisations and individuals contribute significantly to the implementation of the SDGs. They include local volunteers, scientists and researchers, trade unions, businesses, children, youth and

older persons, as well as countless community organisations. We call on States to recognize our contributions and treat us as equal partners.

**Regarding question 4**, States should follow a "whole of society" approach to VNRs and incorporate written inputs from all stakeholders, including MGOS. This will allow for a comprehensive understanding of achievements and challenges, promote transparency, ownership, and accountability, and enrich the review process.

Each country should submit at least two VNRs by 2030. For those who've already prepared two, they should submit at least one more. The second and subsequent VNRs should focus on progress and lessons learned since the last review.

We also call for improvements to the quality and structure of VNRs with evidence-based analysis and disaggregated data for a comprehensive assessment of those who are left behind.

At the country level, we also support stronger post-VNR follow-up, including national dialogues to advance and enhance SDG delivery in partnership with civil society stakeholders. Each country should aim to deliver a national plan with practical steps for implementation. This could be combined with a 'commitment tracker' that encourages States to show their progress on commitments made during previous HLPFs and SDG Summits.