

U.S. Statement for First Informal Meeting on the 2024 HLPF

As delivered

We congratulate Ambassador Blanco and Ambassador Brattested on their appointment as co-facilitators for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. We look forward to working with you as we embark on this important discussion.

The United States recognizes the 2024 HLPF Ministerial Declaration as a vital opportunity to follow-up on the SDG Summit last fall and to prepare for the Summit of the Future in September.

The Ministerial Declaration should reaffirm that achieving the SDGs depends on our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN. With SDG 16 under in-depth review this year, it is especially important to reemphasize our commitment as Member States to foster societies that respect human rights and worker rights, uphold the rule of law and access to justice, promote gender equality, tackle corruption, and support inclusive, accountable governance for all citizens.

Moreover, the document should emphasize the importance of a whole-of-society approach to the 2030 Agenda. New and stronger partnerships with governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society, unions, and local actors to leverage our respective capacities. This approach must also recognize the need to empower stakeholders at all levels, including individuals in vulnerable situations and members of marginalized groups, to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs as full partners.

It should recognize that the UN is at the center of our efforts to achieve sustainable development, and it benefits enormously from complementary work in the wider multilateral system and Member States' bilateral efforts. It should reaffirm that achieving the SDGs requires embracing the comparative advantages of different bodies, leveraging their technical expertise, and, crucially, respecting that the legitimacy of these bodies is a function of their independent mandates and governance structures.

Turning to the SDGs under review,

SDG1: Ending Poverty

- As agreed in the 68th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights is vital to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions.
- The Ministerial Declaration should reaffirm the need to take action on our existing commitments and obligations to gender equality, including in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

SDG2: Food Security

- In considering food security, the declaration should recognize that ending hunger requires national-led agrifood systems transformations that boost sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity; account for the interlinkages of food systems with climate change and biodiversity; invest in and apply science and innovation; and recognize the key role of partnerships.
- It should also reaffirm the vital importance of national policies to set enabling environments for investment in sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood production and trade, especially for women and marginalized groups who face barriers in scaling up to feed their communities and countries and connecting with export markets.

SDG13: Climate

- The Ministerial Declaration should not attempt either to renegotiate issues decided or outcomes adopted at COP28 or to prejudge the outcomes of negotiations ahead of COP29. As the UN General Assembly has acknowledged repeatedly, the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC process is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
- Any references to the decisions taken at COP28 must be balanced, with an appropriate emphasis on mitigation actions and without taking agreed language out of context.

SDG16: Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

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- Meaningful access to justice is crucial to the fair and effective administration of laws, public programs, and the stability of our society. Achieving justice for all requires an intersectional approach, including women's participation as professionals in the justice system is part of the solution to these justice gaps.
- The Ministerial Declaration should recognize the importance of closing the justice gap, ensuring that communities have access to the promises and protections of their legal systems and that justice does not depend on income, age, gender, status, or language.
- Similarly, the Ministerial Declaration should recognize the importance of anti-corruption to sustainable development, recognizing that corruption undermines development, increases inequality, and threatens the rule of law and public trust.

SDG17: Partnership for the Goals (USAID)

- Achieving the SDGs requires a renewed collective effort. The Ministerial Declaration should recognize the urgency of increasing finance from all sources, which is a fundamental tenet of implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and must be central to the FFD-4 outcome in 2025.
- The role of the private sector will be vital to achieve the SDGs, in addition to the focus on domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance, development finance, and investment climate to help mobilize private capital and support local capital market development.
- The Ministerial Declaration should also emphasize the principles and best practices that underlie durable progress on sustainable development, including transparency and accountability; high environmental, social, labor, and inclusion standards; respect for human rights; and local partnerships supported by sound, sustainable financing, both domestic and external.