

CANZ Statement for First HLPF Ministerial Declaration informal

27 March 2024

I have the honour to deliver the following joint statement on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and my own country, Australia.

I would like to thank the co-facilitators for the opportunity to provide CANZ views on the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 high-level segment of the ECOSOC high level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

I will highlight some key points that respond to the four questions the co-facilitators helpfully posed to guide these discussions.

CANZ would like to see a Ministerial Declaration that upholds the 2030 Agenda commitment to balance the three dimensions of development, and the indivisibility of all 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

The Ministerial Declaration should speak to the importance of a coordinated approach to protect the hard-fought language and principles within the 2030 Agenda.

We support the inclusion of human rights and gender equality in the Ministerial Declaration.

It is essential to recognise the role of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to accelerate action across all SDGs, including those under review this year.

In particular, we note the recently adopted CSW Agreed Conclusions which specify the links between gender equality and women's empowerment, poverty reduction, and the international financial architecture.

In terms of the main and current trends, challenges and their impacts on the SDGs, it is clear that ongoing conflict, and the lingering legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic have heavily impacted achievement of the SDGs.

The same can be said of climate change and environmental degradation.

All of our countries are feeling the effects of climate change and all of our countries know that these effects will only worsen with inaction.

There is no discussion on climate change without climate action and climate mitigation.

These trends and challenges have weakened global economies and escalated humanitarian need.

It is essential that the root causes of stalled SDG progress be addressed across the development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding nexus.

Progress on the SDGs cannot be achieved without addressing the SDG financing gap and debt challenges faced by developing countries.

The Ministerial Declaration must also seek to catalyse increased investment across all goals and targets, from all sources.

In this regard, CANZ supports increased and more meaningful involvement of the World Bank and the IMF in the HLPF, which would help expand investment pathways to accelerate poverty reduction.

The Ministerial Declaration should also reference the need to strengthen partnerships and align our collective interests with non-state actors, including the private sector, to ensure that we are driving action and investment.

High quality development data is fundamental to understanding and shaping priority actions.

CANZ believes the Ministerial Declaration would benefit from a dedicated focus on closing the data gap and ensuring action on data is responsible, accountable and sustainable.

As Voluntary National Reviews form an integral part of the HLPF, CANZ encourages VNR reporting that not only focuses on progress achieved, but also takes stock of the gaps and challenges to achieving the SDGs.

We support strengthened participation of civil society in VNR reporting and consider that the VNR process is stronger when all relevant UN bodies, civil society, private sector organisations and multilateral development banks are able to participate fully and meaningfully.

This is at the core of delivering on SDG 17 and partnerships.

CANZ supports the co-facilitators' efforts to draft a focussed and action-oriented Ministerial Declaration that represents our collective approach to address poverty in times of multiple crises and ultimately drives us forward in the pursuit of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to help achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.