

UK Statement on HLPF 2024 Ministerial Declaration Elements Paper

2nd informal, 19 April 2024 10:00, ECOSOC Chamber

Thank you co-facilitators. We appreciate that the HLPF elements paper takes on board many of our suggestions.

We welcome the focus on countries in special situations. Unless we support targeted delivery in these contexts, including fragile states, we won't achieve the SDGs.

We want to work in partnership to develop some of the ideas for reversing the trend of rising poverty, and welcome dialogue on this.

We agree with the need to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty as interlinked aims. This is an urgent task for the international community to take action on.

We support the recognition in the paper that investing in women and girls accelerates progress across SDGs.

We also appreciate the emphasis on good governance, as evidence supports this as a critical enabler of SDG progress.

However, there are some missing elements we would like to see in the zero draft.

We think we have an opportunity to shift to a more constructive narrative on the SDGs, recognising the challenges, but focusing more on positive action, solutions and partnerships, many of which are already underway and need to be amplified.

We would like to see language on SDG synergies - so taking actions that have multiplier impacts across the SDGs to accelerate progress and avoid silos.

Under SDGs 1 and 2 sections, we would like to see recognition of the interlinked challenges of social protection, food security, nutrition, climate change and agriculture, and the impacts of conflict, humanitarian access and instability on hunger and poverty.

Under the SDG13 section, we would like to emphasise nature-based solutions as a way to deliver 'triple wins' for people, climate and nature.

Under the SDG16 section, we would like to a focus on reinvigorating international action to address corruption, illicit finance, and areas like lack of Beneficial Ownership Transparency. This is vital to galvanise more and better domestic funding to deliver the SDGs.

Under SDG17, we would like inclusion of more concrete ideas to close the SDG financing gap, such as MDB reform, stretching balance sheets, and ambitious IDA replenishment; tackling barriers to investment and scaling up private capital; strengthening and improving the G20 Common Framework, and calling for all creditors to offer Climate Resilient Debt Clauses.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with you co-facilitators, and all of you here, to make this an action-oriented declaration, which can also inform Summit of the Future negotiations and the Summit itself, following on from HLPF, to make this a moment that reinvigorates SDG action.