

## **STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM MINISTERIAL SEGMENT – “OUR HLPF IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS”**

Thank you, Moderator, panellists and lead discussants for the insightful reflections on the future role and modalities of the High Level Political Forum.

Kindly allow me to offer South Africa’s perspectives for projecting the HLPF over the next 15 years, and we do believe that the following considerations must form the basis of the HLPF going forward:

1. We fully support the HLPF as the appropriate global, intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder platform to provide political leadership and guidance on the implementation, follow-up and review of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including the SDGs.
2. The HLPF must remain fully cognisant of the complexity and scope of sustainable development challenges facing the global citizenry, and should ensure that poverty eradication remains the overarching objective and that no one is left behind or left out in achieving the future we want.
3. The HLPF must give due recognition to the fact that we live in an unequal world, and in this context the Rio Principles of the Right to Development, Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibility, among others, need to be acknowledged and not lost sight of.
4. Building on the modalities, and learning from the failures and successes of the Commission on Sustainable Development, going forward, the HLPF should facilitate an interactive, dynamic and consultative agenda which is member-state driven.
5. The HLPF work programme should build on the inter-linkages and the institutional approach used by the Commission on Sustainable Development to enable practical clustering of thematic SDGs, while highlighting the cross-cutting areas and means of implementation in an integrated and synergistic manner.
6. This thematic – focused agenda should ensure that the Global Partnership for Development and other relevant partnerships are strengthened; while allowing for adequate and effective means of implementation for sustainable development. A key component of this is the technology facilitation mechanism and capacity building that should be available to developing countries to allow them to carry out their respective national priorities and programmes to implement sustainable development.

7. In fulfilling the common interest of “*Delivering as One*”, the HLPF should support and promote UN system-wide policy coherence and synergy with respect to the follow-up, review and implementation of sustainable development, ensuring a proper balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.
8. The HLPF should allow for an effective SDG review system, which must be rules-based to provide consistency and allow for implementation of commitments which enable verifiable tracking of progress.
9. This SDG review system needs to take into consideration the fact that the goals are not viewed as stand-alone but are interlinked, and so it needs to provide the opportunity for enhanced integration and implementation. Such reviews must be voluntary, Member–State led, participatory, evidence-based and multi-tiered approach, while analysing implementation challenges, constraints and lessons learned.

Moderator, as this session is appropriately titled “*Our HLPF in the next 15 years*” – with the emphasis placed on “OUR” - South Africa stands ready to offer our support in moving the HLPF forward.

I thank you.