



Comments from the Women's Major Group

Suggested additions **underlined, bolded and highlighted**

Suggested deletions ~~struck through~~

Zero draft - Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC High Level Segment

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"

"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"

We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

[Introduction and framing]

1. Undertake to realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind. We stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centred, universal and transformative and that its Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible. We reaffirm all the principles recognized in the Agenda, and emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We welcome efforts at all levels to implement the Agenda and recognize that after almost two years of implementation our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. We acknowledge, at the same time, that the pace of implementation must be accelerated; **by collectively addressing global structural and systemic challenges with adequate public resource allocation,** as the tasks facing us are urgent, and that action is imperative for securing our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

2. Considered the theme of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", and also considered the theme of the 2017 session of the Council, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges", and recognize that they require that we take into account inherent interlinkages between different goals and targets of the SDGs, as well as the need to address the multidimensional nature of poverty and reach the furthest behind first.

3. Recall all relevant resolutions and processes in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, **the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Beijing Platform for Action,** the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, **the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS,** and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions for Women Peace, and Security,** and call for their swift implementation.

Comments:

Suggest moving later in the document in line with calls for keeping this document relatively free from UN jargon. Paragraphs 4 and 5 should be moved above this paragraph to highlight the importance of the foundational principles of the 2030 Agenda rather than the technical UN documents.

The above additions present a more comprehensive picture of policy guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the ICPD Program of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of its review conferences as a solid foundation for sustainable development in paragraph 11 and in SDG target 5.6. Moreover, CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions recognized that implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action “will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (paragraph 5).

In the context of reviewing Goal 5 this year it is especially relevant to include references to Beijing and UNSCR 1325. And in the context of reviewing Goal 3, it is important to refer to the ICPD Program of Action and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

4. Recognize the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. We are committed to a world in which **every woman women and girls of all ages in all their diversity, including transgender women and girls and people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientation,** enjoys full gender equality, **their human rights are guaranteed and respected** and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed;

Comments:

Recommend moving earlier in the document as 2 bis in order to highlight the importance of the underlying principles of the 2030 Agenda rather than specific technical UN documents.

5. View youth and children as **critical** agents for change. **Recognise that respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all young people, adolescents and children will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** They have a critical role in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda **and that they need to be provided with the space to fill that role in a meaningful way.** Investing in children and protecting them from violence **and discrimination** is essential to address multidimensional deprivations, **and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**, end intergenerational poverty, and promote prosperity;

Comments:

The original language in the 2030 Agenda was stronger and recognized the “critical” role of children and young people as agents (paragraph 51). Further additions strengthen the connection between human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is missing from the current Ministerial Declaration, and take a rights-based rather than instrumentalist approach to young people.

6. Commit to embrace diversity **in all its forms**, to strengthen social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity, safety, and the dignity **and human rights** of all people, and to take steps to ensure that our local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful co-existence within increasingly heterogeneous and multi-cultural societies in our effort to leave no one behind;

6 bis. **Recommit to meeting the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for all, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including children, girls, youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants, persons with disabilities, people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, and people discriminated against and criminalized based on sexual orientation and gender identity;**

Comments:

This paragraph fills a critical gap in the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration. The elements paper recognized the importance of reaching the furthest behind first and empowering the most vulnerable, but no paragraph in the current draft addresses this critical issue. This list is based on the listing in A/RES/70/1 paragraph 23 with some edits and additions.

7. Underline that policy integration is essential to poverty eradication and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, requiring engagement **and meaningful participation** by all stakeholders, **including civil society and grassroots movements**, and that it is key to

unlocking opportunities for poverty eradication at the national level. In that regard, we call on the United Nations to establish an interagency task force, guided by the Economic and Social Council, to provide further policy guidance towards our national efforts, **and guidance on ensuring civil society plays an active role in implementing Agenda 2030 at all levels**, to enhance policy integration for achieving the SDGs;

8. Note with appreciation the Report of the Secretary General on the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides an evidence base for our review, while also indicating the finalization of the global indicator framework. We acknowledge that while global progress is evident in many cases, it is uneven across **and within and among** countries and regions; and also insufficient across many targets and indicators;

Comments:

Recognizing the unevenness of progress and inequalities within and among countries is an essential element of implementation of the 2030 Agenda given the mandates to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. Moreover, it is a key element of SDG 10.

[SDGs under review, as well as SDG 17]

9. Reiterate that although our review this year emphasizes SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14; as well as SDG 17, the integrated and unified nature of the SDGs makes it essential that we pay particular attention towards leveraging synergies and co-benefits, while avoiding or minimising goal conflicts and trade-offs. The indivisible and interlinked nature of the goals and targets **and cross-cutting principles for implementation, such as human rights, gender equality and sustainability**, guides and informs the in-depth review by the High Level Political Forum;

10. Believe that eradicating extreme poverty around the world will require continued, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth **and a just transition of the work force including decent work for all**; investing in people's health, **including their sexual and reproductive health and rights**, **lifelong** education, and skills; **achievement of gender equality, women of all ages' human rights and their empowerment, including by reducing and redistributing unpaid domestic and care work**; and building resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks. International trade and foreign direct investment, **in a context of proper regulation under the human rights framework**, are key enablers of growth and can contribute to poverty reduction. We recognize that social protection systems and measures protect the poor, **marginalized** and **people in** vulnerable **situations**, including against shocks such as severe weather, pandemics, food price volatility, and economic crises. We urge that countries, in the context of their own national plans and programmes, include measures that will amplify the poverty reducing impact of actions taken to achieve other SDGs such as those related to growth, energy, infrastructure, and inequality; identify populations most at risk of remaining in or falling back into poverty and place a special focus on reaching them **and establishing means to prevent them from reentering the state of poverty**; and develop robust mechanisms to strengthen institutions serving those affected by conflict, fragility, and forced migration, **and climate change. We also commit to address systemic issues and structural global challenges to ensure the proper national policy**

space and coherence to achieve those measures, including by addressing illicit flows, tax dodging and fiscal paradises, as well as unsustainable debt, while at the same time promoting progressive taxation with a gender perspective.

Comments:

Just transition of the work force and decent work for all was agreed in the Paris Agreement and in CSW 61.

The omission of women's human rights and gender equality from this paragraph is a serious oversight and undercuts the commitment to gender as a cross-cutting issue and the recognition the gender equality is fundamental to achievement of the 2030 Agenda. See CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions paragraph 8: "The commission acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the eradication of poverty..." . Given that this paragraph addresses the economic dimension, the macro-economic element in gender equality -the need to reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work- needs to be highlighted.

The whole system of international trade and schemes of foreign direct investment needs to abide by the human rights framework in order to ensure the impact is addressing the collective good.

Finally, no country or region in the world has the capacity to fulfill the existing commitments without addressing systemic and structural global challenges.

11. Underline that ending hunger, achieving food security **and sovereignty** and improved nutrition and promoting agricultural transformation are inextricably linked and major drivers for the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. We emphasize that **secure and equal rights and access to land and natural resources,** investment in **quality** health **care services, information and education for all, without discrimination,** contributes to reducing inequality, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, **gender equality,** and to the eradication of poverty and hunger. We reiterate the importance of innovation for achieving the 2030 Agenda. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrialization, as well as resilient and accessible infrastructure is integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs, promote productivity growth, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We welcome the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14. We recognize that the well-being of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health, **integrity** and productivity of our oceans, seas and marine resources, and the need to take urgent action to protect the planet from further degradation;

Comments:

Reference to rights to land and natural resources based on target 2.3, 5.a, and CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions paragraphs 10 and 23 (e).

References to health in the current draft are very weak, especially considering that SDG 3 is under review. The report prepared for the HLPF 2017 on the Thematic Review of SDG 3

states in its first paragraph that ‘investment in all the health related targets in the 2030 Agenda is a prerequisite’. It also explicitly mentions the interlinkages with gender equality amongst other SDGs (para 3 of the same report).

In addition, the omission of gender equality from this paragraph as well as the prior one undercuts the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the interrelated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

12. Emphasize that realizing gender equality, **women’s and girls’ human rights** and their **empowerment of all women and girls** ~~will make~~ **makes** a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. There are mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality, **women’s and girls’ human rights** and their **empowerment of all women and girls**; and the eradication of poverty. However, gender inequality, **discrimination, violence against women and girls, violation of their human rights** and the lack of empowerment of women **and girls** persist worldwide. **It is imperative to mainstream gender equality into all sectors and levels.**

Comments:

Discrimination and violence against women and girls should be explicitly mentioned as one of the fundamental and persistent manifestations of gender inequality worldwide (see also the report prepared for the HLPF 2017 on the Thematic Review of SDG 5, page 8&9 ‘Areas where gaps exist’). Confining women to solely the micro dimension or the social sphere means ignoring the evidence of gender equality as a cross-cutting issue, and therefore measures in all sectors and levels need to be promoted and ensured.

12 bis. **Recognize that women and girls play a vital role as leaders and agents of change and development and that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities**

Comments:

New paragraph based on CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions paragraphs 7 and 23(1). The current language on gender equality in the Ministerial Declaration is very weak, does not reflect the urgency of the problem, and does not sufficiently take into account that gender equality is a cross-cutting issue and fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This language also mirrors the language in paragraph 5 on children and youth as agents of change and is line with the principle that the 2030 Agenda is “of the people, by the people and for the people” (A/RES/70/1 paragraph 52).

12 ter. **Reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment at all levels**

Comments:

Verbatim from CSW 60 paragraph 23 (z).

13. Emphasize strengthening, ~~and~~ promoting **and investing in** effective, **meaningful** and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, ~~including public private partnerships~~, by enhancing engagement of governments with global, regional and sub-regional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, donor community, non-governmental organisations, **civil society, feminist and women's organizations**, community groups, **youth- and girl-led organisations**, academic institutions, and other relevant actors.

[Means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology, and innovation]

14. Reiterate that the required revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development should facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. We are fully committed to realizing this aim, working together with all stakeholders, **including civil society and community-based organizations, paying attention to the role of women's organizations and girls and young people, as well as grassroot organizations**. International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources **and acting as catalysers in middle income countries**. We note in this regard, the increase in blended finance strategies through partnerships with the private sector, so as to scale up the amount of capital that can be mobilized to support public investment projects, **and we note the Financing for Development 2017 Inter-Agency Task Force Report in which it is advised that proper regulation of public-private instruments should be placed to avoid negative impacts**. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard we welcome the holding of the second ECOSOC forum on financing for development, and take note of its inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

Comments

Many middle income countries are transitioning from donor funding to domestic resources, responsible transition policies should be in place to avoid disruption of critical services, including continued funding to local civil society organizations.

The 2017 Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Financing for Development devotes a specific section to highlight the need for regulation to achieve the best outcomes in public-private partnerships.

15. Emphasize that harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels are essential to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the second

multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We look to the STI Forum to continue to provide opportunities to strengthen dialogue between stakeholders and Governments and to promote an environment conducive to sharing and exchanging ideas and success stories and catalysing new initiatives and partnerships;

16. Stress the need to promote the participation and inclusion of youth and children in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through participation in its review processes **at all levels**. To this end, we take note with appreciation of the ECOSOC Youth Forum and commend Member States, the United Nations system, youth-led and youth-focused organizations as well as other civil society and private sector stakeholders for their work on youth in sustainable development. We urge Member States to ensure that youth education, skill development and employment are at the centre of all priorities to enable **children, girls, adolescents and young people** to fulfil their potential as active members of society. We encourage Member States to include youth and children's perspectives in the development, **implementation**, and assessment, **and monitoring** of sustainable development policies, strategies and programs;

17. Emphasize that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, **and the gender digital divide**, and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy. We recognize that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how are powerful drivers of economic growth ~~and~~ sustainable development **and poverty eradication**. We acknowledge both the transformative and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly advances in automation, on our labour markets and on the jobs of the future and, in this regard, seek to prepare our societies and economies for these effects;

18. Welcome the appointment of the 15 eminent scientists to draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report which will inform the 2019 High-Level Political Forum and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels;

19. Emphasize the critical importance of strengthened and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. We note with appreciation the work of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, which stressed that cross-sectoral and integrated partnerships that are aligned with the United Nations' values are instrumental in enabling collective action at all levels, and that transparency and accountability in partnerships would be fundamental in achieving sustainable development. To this end, we encourage the UN system to enhance its collaboration with partners and share knowledge and best practices in partnership approaches with a view to improving transparency, coherence, due diligence, accountability and impact. We also emphasize the crucial importance of **civil society and local community engagement**, collaboration, learning and cooperation at all levels, including, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[Countries in special situations]

20. Reiterate that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention. Common challenges across LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS include structural rigidities, levels of indebtedness, low share of global trade, remoteness, poor infrastructure development, low productivity, jobless growth, and limited resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks including the impact of climate change, desertification, and land degradation, **and health threats**. There are also serious developmental challenges faced by many middle-income countries.

[Follow-up and review]

21. Commend the 44 countries that conducted Voluntary National Reviews at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, which were enriched by the past experiences shared by the 2016 presenters. They have shared valuable lessons learned, as well as challenges encountered. We welcome the efforts of countries to involve a wide variety of stakeholders, **including civil society**, in their Voluntary National Review processes, both in the preparations and in their presentations;

22. Encourage all Member States to make best use of the lessons learnt from the review process to enhance their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to consider conducting reviews;

22 bis. **Highlight the importance of participatory and inclusive implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. We acknowledge the primary responsibilities of Governments in this regard. We also acknowledge the contribution of parliaments, subnational governments and all other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia and philanthropic organizations. Their participation supports accountability to our citizens and enhances the effectiveness of our action, fostering synergies, multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation, and the exchange of best practices and mutual learning. We welcome the participation and contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the high-level political forum and encourage their continued engagement in ensuring that no one is left behind;**

Comments:

Verbatim from 2016 HLPF Ministerial Declaration. Specific mention of and support for the major groups and other stakeholders is currently missing from the draft and is a serious oversight.

23. Commend the 2017 regional forums for sustainable development for engaging in a systematic process of follow-up and review at the regional level which provides useful opportunities for regional cooperation and peer learning, reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on agreed targets and identified challenges, as well as for convening regional contributions to the High-Level Political Forum. We further recognize the important role that

other regional and sub-regional forums can have in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

24. Recognize that innovations for infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization are integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs, promote productivity growth, enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We welcome the launch of the Accelerated Agriculture and Agro-industry Development Initiative PLUS (3ADI+) to re-energize the global partnership to achieve a sustainable and inclusive transition of agro-industry to eradicate poverty and food insecurity. We also welcome the Programme for Country Partnerships that mobilizes external partners and additional resources to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We look forward to receiving an update on the progress of implementation of these two initiatives;

25. Encourage continued support for adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change and strengthening of disaster risk reduction and early warning systems **using a gender-responsive approach** in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, **including and especially the disproportionate impacts of climate change and other environmental issues on women and girls, as well as addressing the systemic causes of these problems;**

Comments:

Additions based on CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions paragraphs 14 and 23(1) recognizing the gendered dimension of climate change and disasters. See also UN Women's recent work on gender and disasters, including a new program: http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2016/fpi%20brief-gir_v2.pdf?vs=2816 and <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/compilation-women-in-disaster-risk-reduction>.

26. Stress the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and data disaggregated by **income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location** ~~sex, age, disability, income~~ and other characteristics relevant in national contexts **and to improve understanding of inequalities**. Additionally, we note the importance of data-driven decision making, innovation, and the need to build capacity for producing, analysing and using data to achieve the goals. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the indicators that have been agreed by the Statistical Commission **and fully considered input from civil society;**

Comments:

List of characteristics for data disaggregation verbatim from target 17.18.

27. Highlight the importance of localizing and communicating the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, from the national discussions to the community and grassroots level. In this vein, there can be no implementation where no awareness exists, and efforts should be made to reach out to all stakeholders, including local authorities, indigenous peoples, **young people**, civil society, **grassroots, rights based-movements**, business, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, and the scientific and academic community;

28. Recognize the role of the United Nations system in supporting national measures for the achievement of the Agenda. In this regard, we note the importance of ensuring that the United Nations is fit for purpose, and encourage the UN development system to improve collaboration in delivering collective results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. We take note of the Secretary-General's proposals to address gaps, overlaps and build synergy, to improve the accountability, transparency, coordination and oversight of the system. We look forward to the Secretary-General's further proposals at the end of the year;
29. Pledge to continued inclusive and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.