



CZECH REPUBLIC

**High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held under the
auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations**

Ministerial Segment

General Debate held from 14 to 16 July 2020

Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Tomáš Petříček

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement at the Ministerial Segment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on behalf of the Czech Republic.

One lesson I have learned from the recent Covid-19 crisis is that it is not possible to be fully prepared for a future crisis of such a magnitude. It is, however, possible to focus on activities that will help us handle such situations in the future in a better way. Increasing global preparedness and resilience – this is a key goal that we should strive to achieve in the context of the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This highly topical issue involves not only building resilient states and societies, but also developing an integrated and effective approach to resolving conflicts and crises. We must never lose sight of the need to consistently foster good governance, effective and transparent institutions, coherent policies, inclusive societies, and participatory societal mechanisms, since their development contributes significantly to both the economic and environmental aspects of resilience.

Actually, many of the lessons we have just learned about resilience have a direct and crucial relevance to the SDGs:

1/ The pandemic has not changed anything regarding our determination to fulfil the SDGs. They remain as important as earlier and have become even more valid after the Covid-19 crisis. We have to maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda and ensure continuous action on the targets of SDGs with a 2020 timeline in particular. That would be a huge contribution to resilience on a global scale.

2/ We also need to strengthen effective multilateralism, which is the cornerstone of international partnership for tackling common challenges in the age of globalization. It requires a continuous effort to preserve and strengthen the rules-based international order and coordinate both among states and across institutions. The SDGs should serve as an instrument for reaching sustainable resilience through effective multilateralism.

3/ The Covid-19 crisis has shown that countries more advanced in the implementation of SDGs have coped better with the consequences of the global pandemic.

4/ The Covid-19 experience so far clearly shows that politicians and experts urgently need to work together, in order for our response to this pandemic to be effective. The SDGs offer a unique tool for such indispensable cooperation. Only working together, we can succeed.

To conclude - the resilience of one must not be at the expense of the other. Only a global resilience can help humanity face global threats.

Thank you for your attention.