



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 May 2019

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 3 May 2019, I have the honour to inform you that I will convene an informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly to brief Member States on the scope and format of the activities for the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit), to be held on 24-25 September 2019. The briefing will take place on Friday, 14 June, at 3:00 p.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

In preparation for the briefing, I have further the honour to circulate the following documents:

- Modalities of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit);
- Information Note on Acceleration SDG Actions;
- Draft Vision Statement for high-level week – “Accelerating Implementation of the 2030 Agenda - synergies and coherence among the High-level Meetings of the high-level week of the seventy-fourth session of the UN General Assembly”.

I invited H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, as well as the SG Special Envoy for the Climate Action Summit to participate in the briefing. The meeting will provide an opportunity for Member States to exchange views and hear the updates from the co-facilitators of relevant processes in the lead up to the high-level week.

Your personal participation at the briefing would be highly appreciated.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A stylized blue ink signature of María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Missions and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

## MODALITIES OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SDG SUMMIT)

**Introduction:** In her letter dated 13 February 2019, the President of the General Assembly announced the appointment of H. E. Mr. Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, as Facilitator of the informal consultations on the scope, format and the organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit), to take place on 24–25 September 2019. The recommendation presented is the result of a process of consultations that included 2 informal consultations and a high number of bilateral consultations with Member States and other stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat. Throughout this process, the Facilitator conveyed the following messages to Member States:

- The need for all Member States and other stakeholders to consider all upcoming high-level events during the high-level week in September 2019 as a comprehensive package;
- No necessity for a modalities resolution;
- The constraints imposed by decisions of the General Assembly on the allocated time for the "SDG Summit", which in turn discourages a general discussion;
- The need to use this space as an opportunity for dialogue at the highest-level;
- The need to avoid thematic and modalities duplication with the HLPF under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

**Parameters:** Guidance for the recommendations on the modalities of the "SDG Summit" are contained in General Assembly resolutions 67/290, 70/1, 70/299, and General Assembly decision 73/522 as well as the three Ministerial Declarations of the annual HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC. Inspiration was also drawn from the insights into the main findings of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report and the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), as well as from the letter by the Secretary-General dated 25 April 2019 on the *"Informal contribution from the United Nations system to support coherence and a common narrative for the sustainable development-related Summits and mandated high-level meetings of high-level week 2019"*.

The format of the SDG Summit and the participation of Member States is set within the overall context of the General Assembly high-level week during the 74th session and the primacy of the General Debate. Acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other agreements and mobilization of financing for development and other commitments are the main goals of all high-level meetings. They share the same ambition to shift the world onto a path of zero poverty and lives of dignity for all, on a safe, healthy and peaceful planet. Member States are invited to look at their participation across all events during the high-level week rather than focus on the SDG Summit in isolation.



**Proposed programme:** As established by General Assembly decision 73/522, the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly shall take place on Tuesday, 24 September, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Wednesday, 25 September, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The General Assembly also decided that there would be no parallel meetings, apart from the General Assembly general debate. The programme has been built on the following premises:

- The meeting is convened at the level of Heads of State and Government (resolution 67/290, paragraph (6a));
- The draft programme is designed to have an opening, two plenary sessions (one hour and 45 minutes combined) for statements delivered on behalf of groups of Member States, six high-level "Leaders Dialogue" of one hour each, and a closing. In order to allow all inscribed participants to speak, time limits will be strictly implemented;
- The adoption of the political declaration is proposed during the opening of the Summit;
- Each "Leaders Dialogue" will focus on a specific theme drawn from important insights and findings of the SDGs Progress Report and the GSDR. They will allow high-level speakers to engage and share political guidance and recommendations for implementation based on their national experiences regarding the theme of the dialogue selected;
- Each Dialogue is designed to accommodate fourteen high-level speakers, comprising twelve Member States, one representative of a relevant intergovernmental organization or UN system and one representative of major groups and other stakeholders. Delegations will be invited to indicate in advance their two preferred options for the Leaders Dialogues. Priority will be given to Heads of State and Government, on a first come, first served basis with due consideration of geographical and gender balance. Each participant will only be able to speak in one, pre-selected Leaders Dialogue. Participants are encouraged to stay for the duration of the dialogue. The six representatives from Major Groups and other stakeholders will be determined through the existing mechanism within DESA. Representatives from IGOs and the UN System will also have a chance to indicate their interest to participate in the dialogues. Details will be communicated at a later date.
- The "Leaving No One Behind" video series is based on the main highlights of the SDGs Progress Report and will be integrated into the programme in recognition of the centrality of this principle for the entire sustainable development agenda. Short three-minute videos will be presented between the Leaders Dialogues. In addition to the specific video on women and girls, the series will focus on vulnerable groups as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Tuesday, 24 September 2019**

15.00 - 15.55	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Setting the scene and taking stock of the situation regarding the achievement of the SDGs: progress, challenges and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement by the President of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly</li> <li>• Statement by the Secretary-General</li> <li>• Statement by the President of Economic and Social Council for the 2019 session</li> <li>• Presentation of the Global Sustainable Development Report by the two Co-Chairs of the group of independent scientists</li> <li>• Representative of Civil Society</li> <li>• Adoption of the political declaration</li> </ul>
15.55 - 16.00	Leaving No One Behind Video Series 1: Women and Girls
16.00 – 17.00	<p><b>Plenary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statements delivered on behalf of groups of Member States (5 mins each)</li> </ul>
17.00 – 17.05	Leaving No One Behind Video Series 2: Youth
17.05 – 18.00	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 1 – Megatrends Impacting the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p>The world population is increasing rapidly at a time when considerable numbers of people experience multiple deprivations and are denied the right to dignified living conditions. Economic growth is still not inclusive enough and human activity often places additional pressures on natural resources and ecosystems, making it urgent to strike a balance between achieving human well-being and containing environmental costs. Science and rapid technological changes bring new promises for the SDGs but also many policy issues that need to be addressed. The world is interconnected through increasing flows of goods, capital, people and information. Climate change impacts the world as a whole. The discussion will focus on such global trends that are already affecting the achievement of the SDGs and will have an even greater impact in the future.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>
Wednesday, 25 September 2019	
10.00 – 10.05	Leaving No One Behind Video Series #3: Children
10.05 – 11.00	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 2 –Accelerating the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Critical Entry Points</b></p> <p>The true transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda lies in achieving the goals and targets through an integrated approach that builds on the synergies among the SDGs and maximizes the co-benefits of actions for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. This session will focus on critical entry points for accelerating actions towards progress across the SDGs. One such entry point is strengthening human well-being, which implies eradicating deprivations, closing gaps and expanding opportunities and capabilities. Other entry points include: shifting towards sustainable and just economies, building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns, achieving energy decarbonization and universal access to energy, promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development and securing the earth’s shared natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>

<b>11.00-11.05</b>	<b>Leaving No One Behind Video Series #4: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants</b>
<b>11.05 – 12.00</b>	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 3: Measures to Leverage Progress Across the Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p>Realizing the SDGs requires a whole-of-government approach to find the right balance between achieving human wellbeing and protecting the planet. This session will focus on measures and tools for accelerating this transformation. One such “lever” is governance, which needs to be rethought through the SDGs. Another lever is economy and finance, which should be strengthened to advance sustainable development and avoid undesirable outcomes. Individual and collective actions, which require empowering people and engaging them in decision making, is also essential for realizing sustainable development. Another powerful lever is science and technology which helps address trade-offs between policy areas and can bring innovative solutions for realizing the SDGs. Those and other levers need to be applied together in coherent and innovative ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>
<b>12.00 – 12.05</b>	<b>Leaving No One Behind Video Series #5: Persons with Disabilities</b>
<b>12.05 – 13.00</b>	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 4: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p>Across the world, many state and non-state actors, including the private sector and civil society, have been working to drive progress towards the SDGs. This session will focus on country-level experiences in localizing the SDGs adapting them to the national and local situations, and incorporating them in policies, institutions, financial frameworks and ways of working. It will also discuss the mobilization of national and local actors around the SDGs, including parliaments, local governments, the private sector, civil society and other major groups and other stakeholders.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>
15.00 – 15.05	Leaving No One Behind Video Series #6: Older Persons
15.05 – 16.00	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 5: Partnerships for Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>Forging genuine partnerships is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. Partnerships, notably innovative partnerships, provide channels for all stakeholders to work collaboratively across sectors and thematic areas. This session will address the critical role of partnerships among a range of stakeholders for the achievement of the SDGs, including countries, the private sector, civil society, and the UN system; while also addressing related policies and issues. It will also discuss progress in revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development and international cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>
16.00 – 16.05	Leaving No One Behind Video Series #7: Persons living with HIV
16.05 – 17.00	<p><b>Leaders Dialogue 6: The 2020-2030 Vision</b></p> <p>The session will focus on the vision for the ten-year period remaining until the target date for reaching the SDGs and highlight critical actions for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. Leaders will share their long-term plans and strategies, as well as immediate next steps and actions. While the majority of</p>

	<p>the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs are set to be reached in 2030, some have the earlier deadline. The session will also address the twenty SDG targets that have a completion date of 2020, with a view to assess progress and consider options for the way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moderators (one from the North, one from the South); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion)</li> <li>• Twelve representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each)</li> <li>• One representative of relevant intergovernmental organization or the UN System (3 mins each);</li> <li>• One representative of major groups and other stakeholders (3 mins each).</li> </ul>
17.00 – 17.05	Leaving No One Behind Video Series #8: Indigenous Peoples
17.05 – 17.50	<p><b>Plenary</b></p> <p>Statements delivered on behalf of groups of Member States (5 minutes each)</p>
17.50 – 18.00	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <p>The session will focus on key messages and compelling insights emerging from the SDG Summit, with an emphasis on acceleration actions to reach the sustainable development goals. It will recapitulate briefly the findings of the Leaders' Dialogues and the acceleration actions announced in the course of the Summit. The perspective will be forward looking and action-oriented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement by the Secretary-General</li> <li>• Statement by the President of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly</li> </ul>

- Other Programme Components including the use of Multimedia, ensuring accessibility to the Summit, as well as stakeholder engagement are being explored. Subsequent updates will be provided in the lead up to the SDG Summit.



## **INFORMATION NOTE**

### **ACCELERATION SDG ACTIONS**

#### **Introduction**

Events during the high-level week in September 2019 present an important opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While each meeting is distinct, they are intrinsically linked in their ambition to fast-track efforts towards zero poverty and lives of dignity for all, on a safe, healthy and peaceful planet.

With just over a decade to go until 2030, it is clear that in spite of progress that has been made on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related agreements, much remains to be done to realize the Agenda in time. The high-level week events provide an important moment to scale-up action and ambition. The acceleration commitments of each meeting should be seen within the context of high-level week as a whole in order to maximize the impact on overall SDG Action.

- “Voluntary Accelerated SDG Actions” at the SDG Summit;
- “Ambitious Partnerships” at the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review;
- “Transformational Initiatives” will be launched at the Climate Action Summit;
- “Moving Together to Build a Healthier World” at the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage; and
- “High impact multi-stakeholder initiatives” at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

Emphasizing synergies and interlinkages of the high-level meetings, an online platform will be established to provide an overview of the events of the high-level week with links to the websites/webpages of the individual high-level events. The platform will be housed on the SDG Knowledge Platform. The registration of voluntary action commitments will remain on the main sites for each event, however the common platform would prominently feature multi-stakeholder partnerships, voluntary commitments and announcements of major new initiatives intended to accelerate SDG implementation.

#### **Voluntary Acceleration SDG Action: SDG Summit**

On 24-25 September, the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly, “The SDG Summit”, will provide the central focus for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and identify ways to accelerate progress. In addition to the inter-governmentally agreed political declaration, voluntary actions/commitments to accelerate SDG Action will be announced before and during the SDG Summit.

“Acceleration SDG Actions” are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by countries and other actors to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Such acceleration actions can be announced by national Governments, local and regional governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, major groups and other stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the scientific community, and other actors – individually or in partnership.

### **How to launch and register acceleration actions?**

Acceleration actions can be announced at the Summit during the Leaders Dialogues by Heads of State and Government. Any voluntary action meeting the below criteria can be registered as an acceleration action for the SDG Summit. Registration is now open online and will serve as the basis for the SDG Summit Registry of Commitments

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/register/?source=90>) on the SDG Summit webpage (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit#home>).

### **What are the criteria for acceleration SDG actions?**

Acceleration SDG actions<sup>1</sup> should:

- Facilitate and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, reflect interlinkages among goals and contribute to policy coherence;
- Respect principles of the United Nations Charter and the 2030 Agenda;
- Build on existing successful efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) or introduce new ones;
- Include means of implementation such as finance, technology or capacity building as an element to help ensure longevity and sustainability of the initiative;
- Provide access to additional information on the actions (e.g. website, contacts)
- Follow the SMART Criteria – a commitment that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable Resource based, with Time-based deliverables;

### **Launch and follow-up of acceleration SDG actions**

The on-line registry provides a space for recording the actions and reporting on their implementation. Countries can also report on follow-up to their acceleration actions through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Customarily, UN DESA prepares synthesis reports on the implementation of partnership commitments, which could also include acceleration actions and acceleration initiatives.

### **Ambitious Partnerships: SAMOA Pathway High-Level Midterm Review**

The high-level mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway will be held on 27 September 2019. The SAMOA Conference, held in September 2014, resulted in 300 SIDS-related partnerships. Its outcome, the SAMOA Pathway, recognizes that genuine and durable partnerships play an important role in advancing the sustainable development of small island developing states (SIDS).

As part of the September high-level review, Governments, private sector, civil society, academia and a wide range of other stakeholders will be encouraged to build and launch new and additional partnerships that advance the implementation of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in SIDS.

### **How to launch and register SIDS partnerships?**

In the lead up to and during the high-level review of the SAMOA Pathway, all actors are encouraged to register and announce new partnerships in support of SIDS. Specifically, the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, held in the margins of the July HLPF on 10 July 2019, will serve as a platform for soliciting partnerships in the lead-up to the midterm review.

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<sup>1</sup> Platform developed by DESA



At the high-level review itself, two multi-stakeholder dialogues will serve as key intergovernmental spaces for announcing new SIDS partnerships.

Any new SIDS partnerships are encouraged to be registered on the dedicated online platform at: <https://sidspartnerships.un.org/partnerships/>.

### **What are the criteria for SIDS partnerships?**

Genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS should follow the SIDS Partnership SMART criteria – partnerships that are: • SIDS-Specific • Measurable and monitorable • Achievable & Accountable • Resource-based & results focused • Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties.

### **How will partnerships be followed-up?**

To monitor the full implementation of SIDS partnerships, the General Assembly has established an intergovernmental SIDS Partnerships Framework. The Steering Committee of this Framework is currently co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Belize and Ireland.

## **Transformational Initiatives: 2019 Climate Action Summit**

On 23 September 2019, the Secretary-General will host the Climate Action Summit with the objective of boosting ambition and accelerating action to implement the Paris Agreement. The Secretary-General has called on all leaders to launch transformational initiatives in the lead up to and at the Summit, which are concrete and scalable and significantly enhance nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade and to net zero emissions by 2050.

Nine coalitions have been established in key action areas for curbing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing global ambition on adaptation and resilience: 1) Mitigation Strategy; 2) Social and Political Drivers; 3) Youth Engagement and Public Mobilization; 4) Energy Transition; 5) Industry Transition; 6) Resilience and Adaptation; 7) Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action; 8) Nature-based Solutions; and 9) Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing.

### **What are the selection criteria for transformative initiatives?**

The coalitions are expected to present a set of potential Summit deliverables by 30 June 2019 at the Summit's preparatory meeting in Abu Dhabi (30 June 2019–1 July 2019). This meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss, analyse and select the proposals to be presented at the Summit.

Selection criteria include the following: transformational impact; sustainable development co-benefits; replicable and scalable; measurable and implementable; and innovative and visible.

### **How will the initiatives be followed-up?**

A Chair's summary will capture the initiatives and commitments showcased at the Summit. Follow up arrangements will be put in place to track progress, ensure accountability and to facilitate implementation of the Summit proposals, including by being furthered by the United Nations system and being fed into the process leading up to the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) and beyond.

## **"Moving Together to Build a Healthier World": High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage**

The high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), to be held on 23 September, is expected to approve a Political Declaration. The meeting seeks to harness political commitment towards reaching UHC by 2030 to enable the 3.5 billion people that currently do not have full coverage of essential health services to achieve healthier lives and access the care they need.

In addition, a major initiative to build on the outcome of the high-level meeting is the "Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All," or the SDG3+ Global Action Plan (GAP). The Action Plan is a commitment by leading global health and development agencies to advance collective and coherent action to accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDG 3 and health-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. Member States might use the opportunity of the high-level meeting to announce additional commitments in support of UHC and SDG3.

### **How will the outcome be followed-up?**

The outcome of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage should be reviewed in the upcoming sessions of the General Assembly and would take stock of progress achieved and identify gaps and solutions to accelerate health across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is envisaged that 1 billion additional people will be covered by UHC which would allow them to access safe, effective and affordable health services. This will require the multilateral system, including the UN system and UN Country Teams in particular, to provide all necessary support to Member States, at global, regional and country levels, to implement UHC, in accordance with national priorities.

## **High impact multi-stakeholder initiatives: High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development**

The High-level Dialogue, to be held on 26 September, will issue a call for collective action to accelerate progress on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and address risks to financing the SDGs; mobilize action at all levels; and generate high-impact initiatives for financing the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind. Events held during the dialogue will provide opportunities to announce and launch new major initiatives and engage with stakeholders, including international financial institutions. An official summary of the High-level Dialogue will be prepared, including the list of major initiatives and recommendations emerging from the discussion.

In addition, on the day of the High-level Dialogue, the Secretary-General will launch the 'Global Investors for Sustainable Development' (GISD) Alliance as part of the implementation of the Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Alliance will bring together executives from private sector companies and contribute towards implementing solutions for scaling long-term investment for sustainable development. In September 2021, the alliance will present a report on actions taken and results achieved.



## ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

### **Synergies and coherence among the High-level Meetings of the high-level week of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

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This September, the global spotlight will again fall on the High-level Week of the UN General Assembly. But it will do so with greater intensity than ever, as the hopes and aspirations of 7.7 billion people – and the future of this planet – hangs in the balance.

The meetings that will be held in just **six short days** have the potential to turn the tide:

- High-Level Meeting on **Universal Health Coverage** on 23 September;
- Secretary-General's **Climate Action Summit** on 23 September;
- High-Level Political Forum on **Sustainable Development** on 24-25 September;
- High-Level Dialogue on **Financing for Development** on 26 September;
- High-Level Midterm Review of the **SAMOA Pathway** on 27 September; and the
- **General Debate** on 24-28 September, which is an opportunity to reinforce the above.

All these meetings, including the **General Debate** – which must remain, as ever, **the unique forum for world leaders to discuss pressing global issues every year** – are more than sequential events. They are more than building blocks, even. They are inextricably linked like strands of DNA, woven into the fabric of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the common thread of multilateral action.

This is how I, as President of the General Assembly, am approaching preparations for High-level Week. And **I encourage Heads of State and Government to see these six days as a package** – a continuum of opportunities to advance our shared aspirations with **concrete commitments and plans for implementation**.

### **Strengthening multilateralism: making the UN relevant by delivering for all**

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda marked a high point for multilateralism, with Member States committing to a **comprehensive and ambitious blueprint** for the world – humanity's survival kit. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the product of the largest and most inclusive consultation in UN history. Similarly, their achievement needs to involve all of society. **Our shared commitment to "leave no one behind" is crucial**: to ensure we reach the most vulnerable, but also to mobilize stakeholders at all levels in our implementation efforts.

The future of humanity – and of our rules-based international system – rests on this commitment. Through it, we have acknowledged that the gains of the past seven decades have not been shared equally. We have reaffirmed that we cannot overcome the challenges we face – or leverage the opportunities we have – without harnessing the full potential of all the world's people: women and men; young and old; people of all faiths and none; of all colors and backgrounds, including minorities, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

We cannot push back against those questioning the value of multilateralism without delivering on this commitment. From extreme poverty to soaring inequality, human rights abuses to poor governance, the factors fueling xenophobia, extremism and unilateralist rhetoric are all addressed by the 2030 Agenda.

The best way to demonstrate that multilateralism works – and to restore faith not only in the international community but in governments – is to generate, through the SDGs, tangible benefits to people's lives. It is our answer to the naysayers. It is the hope we can offer to the disillusioned, the reassurance we must give to those who have lost faith in our capacity to deliver.

### **A framework for success: more ambition, faster action**

The 2030 Agenda was designed by Member States to serve as the overarching framework for our collective efforts to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. And Member States can rightly be proud of the progress made to date. Leadership has come from all quarters.

We must use High-level Week, in an integrated manner, to build on this progress and commit to faster and more ambitious action. We must **review the data and evidence** we have gathered, **analyze the results** achieved to date, and **identify what has – and has not – worked** in policy and practical terms. And we must identify the **most transformative next steps** to be taken by Member States, the international community, regional organizations and stakeholders from all sectors. And then, **we must draw up clear plans on how to put them into practice.**

### **Eleven years to deliver, six days to make it count**

We have just **11 years to keep the promises we made** through the Sustainable Development Goals. We have just **11 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.** The six days from 23 to 28 September must put us on course to accelerated action, concrete results and greater impact for people on the ground.

This is the moment to make **strategic choices in partnership with all stakeholders** – who must be involved in decision-making, design and delivery every step of the way. Member States' political leadership and efforts must match the energy, ambition and multifaceted contributions of young leaders, academia, environmentalists, indigenous peoples, the private sector, local governments – of all those who have a stake in the 2030 Agenda.

We cannot succeed unless we **massively scale up partnerships.** Not as an afterthought, but as an integral part of our plans. One priority for High-level Week must be to move forward our longstanding discussions on how we engage with those on whom we rely; on those who are counting on us.

But while the contribution of stakeholders is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda, **Member States are in the driving seat.** I urge **Heads of State and Government to accelerate their efforts to drive progress, and rally others.** Every meeting during High-Level Week is an opportunity to make our vision for humanity a reality. Every process holds within it the hopes and aspirations of the world's people. And all the meetings must be linked to each other in a comprehensive package, consistent with the



2030 Agenda. As we enter the next decade of implementing the 2030 Agenda, the six days from 23 to 28 September hold the key to ensuring we keep the promises we have made – let's use them.