

Check Against Delivery



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE

**HONOURABLE BAKARY BADJIE, MINISTER OF  
YOUTH AND SPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE GAMBIA**

AT THE  
SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

DURING THE  
79<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

**NEW YORK**

**Mr. President**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates and Participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Government of The Gambia expresses sincere gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General for convening this significant Summit, which aims to foster sustainable multilateral solutions to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. We also extend deep appreciation to the co-facilitators from Namibia and Germany for their tireless efforts in facilitating the negotiation processes and invaluable contributions to the preparation and execution of this Summit.

The Summit of the Future demonstrates our collective will to strengthen multilateralism, as it presents a significant opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to addressing shared global challenges. As we engage in discussions on enhancing multilateralism and transforming global governance in the coming days, let us accelerate our commitment to reinforcing our sacred multilateral principles, of upholding human rights, sustaining peace, and driving sustainable development. Solidarity and respect for human dignity must underpin our collective actions and commitments at all levels – be it regional or global. These are and should remain the bedrock of our efforts.

The theme, *"Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow,"* is both timely and relevant. It is particularly relevant at this critical moment when the world, especially the Global South, is grappling with persistent existential challenges, including escalating regional tensions and instabilities such as the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, Palestine and the Sahel region have led to increased displacements of people particularly women and children thereby further depressing the economies of developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

As a developing country, The Gambia is deeply concerned about the disproportionate impacts of global challenges on small countries, especially, the

negative socio-economic dimensions of the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts, increasing climate vulnerabilities, food insecurity, poverty, and emerging health threats which continue to exacerbate existing inequalities, pushing millions further into poverty. Majority within this poverty bracket are women who continue to face considerable barriers to education, economic resources, and deeply entrenched gender norms hindering their participation in the workforce and decision-making processes. All of these have hindered progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. These challenges have stalled progress on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, with the deadline looming and many targets unmet. We urgently need bold actions, comprehensive solutions, and significant resources to tackle these pressing global issues

Youths continue to face structural shortage of decent employment opportunities, compounded by global economic uncertainties, making it challenging for governments to tap into their potential. In our collective response to these complex challenges, the need for multilateral cooperation with a holistic approach, built on dialogue, common understanding, solidarity and shared responsibilities, are essential for safeguarding global stability and ensuring that the SDGs are achievable within this decade.

In this regard, the Government of The Gambia, with support from the United Nations, organized a two-day National Youth Consultation to prepare a position paper and select youth delegates in preparation for this Summit. During these consultations, young people from various sectors emphasized the need for reforms in the international financial system to better address their needs. They advocated for increased access to climate funding, the development of technical skills for climate innovation, and robust measures to close the gender gap in education and leadership. Additionally, they called for improved internet and digital infrastructure, enhanced human rights enforcement, and greater youth participation in political processes to ensure equitable representation in decision-making.

### **Mr. President**

The Gambia fully welcomes the adoption of the Pact for the Future, recognizing it as a commitment to actionable solutions that prioritize cognizing it as a commitment to actionable solutions that prioritize the viability of peaceful,

inclusive, and just societies. The pact is a call to action that places future generations at the core of our concerns.

We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening international cooperation to ensure that the goals of this Summit are realized to build a better tomorrow for future generations.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**