

Statement during the UN Pledging Conference, 3:00-6:00

Mr President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At the outset, allow me to thank UNDESA for organizing this event, which aims to showcase the support and collective efforts by Member States and UN entities to achieve the sustainable development goals.
- I want to reaffirm the importance of this conference, and its crucial role in mobilizing resources to address global challenges such as poverty alleviation, healthcare access, education, infrastructure development, and much more.
- Today, more than ever, the world is witnessing many different challenges, including earthquakes, floods, various natural disasters, and other crises linked to conflicts, which exacerbate development and humanitarian needs.
- It is crucial that we take steps towards assessing the developmental and humanitarian needs, setting priorities based on professional scientific foundations, and examining practical solutions to reduce existing funding gaps.
- Building resilience has become an increasing necessity to navigate global challenges that can only take place if we continue to enhance structural reforms and increase our ability to respond to shocks.

- The report of the Secretary General on the QCPR, has indicated positive trends of an increase of funding for the UN development system, however existing funding gaps are still evident, and continue to put pressure on delivering development commitments, specifically to developing countries.
- Diversifying funding channels has become a necessity to the progress of the UN development system, with the need of an increased strengthened partnership with Member states, the private sector and other multilateral organizations, including international financial institutions.
- Through its vision 2030, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has played a significant role in development.
- Our development role is multifaceted, encompassing economic diversification, infrastructure development, human capital investment, and regional and global leadership.
- Our development co-operation strategy is aligned with Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With national actors delivering aid both bilaterally, and through engagement with the multilateral development institutions, including UN agencies.
- Saudi Arabia takes pride in being one of the top providers of foreign aid including ODA across the globe, and in the view of our global challenges, we are cognizant of our responsibility to respond immediately to emerging humanitarian crises, regardless of their type and causes.

- Saudi Arabia's engagement with UN agencies reflects its commitment to international cooperation, Development, and humanitarian assistance, and achieving the sustainable development goals

- Our financial assistance does not occur in isolation from our work with the United Nations and its agencies. We are one of the largest financial contributors to the UN development system, providing around \$230 million in 2022 to various UN agencies, funds and programmes.

- We attach great importance to our work with the UN, and through partnerships with our national entities including the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and relief center, and the Saudi Fund for development.

- In recent years, this partnership has strengthened with a focus on south-south development.
- And since 2012, we have provided over 40 billion dollars in ODA to countries from the global south, with a recent contribution announced in the UN Conference for LDCs, amounting to \$800 billion in loans to support development projects in LDCs.

- This year, we have also gladly contributed through the dedicated trust funds under UNDESA and UN OHRLLS to support the preparations of both UN Conferences for SIDS, and LLDCs.

- Additionally, we continue to support the work of many UN agencies, and in the light of the current escalation in Gaza, Saudi Arabia has contributed 40 million Dollars to support the efforts of UNRWA in assisting the brotherly Palestinian people besieged in the Gaza Strip.

In conclusion,

- This pledging conference will continue to be a significant event in the global development agenda, helping to galvanize support and resources needed to achieve the sustainable development and improve the lives of people worldwide.
- The needs and priorities of developing countries are essential, and we believe that we can only succeed in reaching our objectives through collective efforts.
- International cooperation is essential for addressing complex global challenges that no single country can tackle alone. By working together, along with the UN development system, we can achieve more effective and sustainable solutions to our shared problems and promote peace, prosperity, and stability worldwide.

I thank you