

UNITED NATIONS



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**Draft Remarks
2024 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities**

Friday, 17 May 2024, 3:00pm

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you to the 2024 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. We convene this Conference at a time when our world is facing enormous challenges.

Most of the Sustainable Development Goals are lagging and some have even regressed from their 2015 benchmarks. Poverty and hunger eradication goals are under threat and the livelihoods of countless people are at risk. Urgent action is needed to make real progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite this concerning reality, countries continue to show a high level of interest in progressing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This is evidenced by the adoption of the sweeping Political Declaration at the 2023 SDG Summit.

It is also evidenced by the continued high interest each year in countries offering to present voluntary national reviews, from among developed and developing Member States. In just the past two years, 83 voluntary national review reports were presented at the High-Level

Political Forum. This includes both developed and developing countries, underscoring the universality of the 2030 Agenda.

The reformed United Nations development system is a vital player in supporting Member States to make progress on their development goals at the scope and speed needed. However, for the system to reach its full potential and provide the effective, strategic support that countries need, requires funding that is sustainable, flexible and predictable.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

This is the first United Nations Pledging Conference for Development activities since 2019. As some of you would recall, the relevance and format of this Pledging Conference was reviewed in 2021. During those negotiations, Member States generally indicated that the Pledging Conference provided a venue for expressing political will in support of development and a valuable opportunity to give increased visibility to their financial contributions to the UN development system.

Member States also felt that the Conference should maintain its focus on development - related activities. This comes at a time when a rapidly increasing proportion of funding to the UN system is being earmarked for humanitarian action, while funding for development activities has stagnated.

At the same time, Member States indicated support for the notion of restructuring the Pledging Conference to make it more fit for purpose, including through a more substantive dialogue on current funding issues.

Excellencies,

Member States have an important role to play in the future success of the UN development system. For its part, the UN development system will make every effort to provide better support to programme countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Let us all work together to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Thank you.
