

Madam Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.

I would like to raise two brief points: the first is on system-wide coherence and the second is on the contributions of civil society.

With respect to the first matter, the High Level Political Forum was created to be a new gravitational center for the development agenda of the United Nations

- However, while a new central body was created, the system around that body has been slow to evolve creating an incongruence which we continue to grapple with seven years on
- Rather than continue to try and mold the subsidiary bodies we have to fit a new reality, the question might better be asked in the reverse order:
 - if we begin with this gravitational center, the HLPF, how would we constructively organize the rest of the system in support of it?
- One approach would be to look at them as falling three categories:
 - cross cutting issues such as statistics, or specific populations like women and youth
 - subsidiary issues like the three dimensions of sustainable development;
 - and those issues which represent the means of implementation such as technology or finance.
- Secondly, what timeline is most appropriate to ensure a good process of learning can take place.
 - Such a systematic approach may require extending the calendar beyond the traditional one year cycle to ensure a growing body of knowledge can be created.
 - Moreover, a calendar extension could also allow for greater breadth and depth within existing resources.
- Finally, regarding civil society participation, Today demands a new posture that humanity has never seen.
 - No longer is “us versus them” meeting our needs.
 - We must construct a world of “us” without a “them”

- The age where relationships between governments and civil society is characterized by suspicion must come to an end.
 - This means that civil society must be prepared to work wholeheartedly with governments
 - *But* this also means that governments must be willing to hear civil society, and deliberate upon the issues which it raises.
 - As policy-makers, you have the prerogative and responsibility to determine how we participate and we rely upon you to wield that authority with justice and generosity.
 - The more the door is open to the equal participation of civil society, the easier it will be for partnerships to flourish and the advancement of humanity to be seen.

I thank you.