

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Colombia commends the realization of this meeting, as we believe that the 2030 Agenda is our best roadmap to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to ensure the effectiveness of this roadmap we need to overcome the silo approach, go beyond the review of particular SDGs at the country level and assess the intralinkages among all of them, specially considering the setbacks in the progress towards the achievement of many of them.

In the context of the Decade of Action and Results, all the countries of the world face even greater challenges to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combat inequality and injustice, and confront climate change without leaving anyone behind. We will not be able to build back better and accelerate our progress without the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Advance on this endeavor, while facing COVID-19 pandemic effects, requires accelerated actions on a huge scale, institutional efforts and the involvement of all actors in society, including academia and the scientific community, parliaments, local authorities and governments, private sector and indigenous peoples.

In the field of health, social protection and access to vaccines, it is necessary to coordinate and strengthen national, regional and global capacities, increase the production and supply of vaccines, strengthening supply chains.

Intersectoral work is essential. The scientific, industrial and commercial health sectors must work jointly on comprehensive strategies to promote the local production of vaccines, medicines and all kinds of tools that make it possible to face this type of situation both internally and internationally.

Likewise, the distribution of these technologies and tools must be given without restrictions to ensure that the generation of gaps in access between countries is avoided. All this will have a positive effect on reducing inequalities in access and generating favorable conditions for the recovery of all countries.

Financial mechanisms will play a critical role in addressing these needs. We need to ensure that recovery packages remain sustainable, without generating additional pressures on the loss of biodiversity and climate change. The protection of nature should remain as relevant criteria of the portfolio of loans and grants.

It is also important that Official Development Assistance is not reduced; on the contrary, it must be strengthened. The commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be honored and reinforced.

To achieve true transformations aimed at promoting sustainable development models, the amounts of investment, both public and private, must be increased towards sustainable investments. We need to close the gap between expenditure in unsustainable productive activities and increase financing for nature-based solutions.

Fiscal policy is key in this regard to generate not only resources for public spending, but also to support the reduction of inequalities through transparent and predictable fiscal regulations that reduce illicit financial flows and increase private investment in sustainable economic activities.

Mr. Chair,

ESOCOC is pivotal to make all these happen. From the strengthening of the organs and the alignment of agendas, it will be possible to take advantage of a fluid dialogue and exchange of experiences among the countries, receiving pertinent recommendations that provide political guidance for the achievement of a sustainable and resilient recovery.

It is important that there is coordination between the different subsidiary bodies in order to avoid duplication and focus on the objectives aimed at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.