



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals

Opening Remarks by His Excellency Collen Vixen Kelapile

President of ECOSOC

Global Media Forum

“Leveraging the power of the media to achieve the SDGs”

Friday, 15 July 2022

**Excellencies;
Distinguished Representatives;
Representatives of the Press around the world;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. I would like to express my appreciation to the Association for International Broadcasting and members of the SDG Media Compact for organizing this event jointly with my Office and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The event aims to mobilize and leverage the presence and influence of global media in meeting the targets of the UN Global Goals.
2. In an era of heightened digital information and social media, the public faces a daily deluge of information, disinformation and fake news. The COVID-19 pandemic and global economic setbacks have also impacted many public interest media organizations worldwide.
3. Lack of data and human resources have made it difficult for the press to accurately report on the impact of COVID-19, and now of the Ukraine war on people’s lives and on progress towards the SDGs around the world. It is also not always easy to accurately analyze government’s efforts to reach the SDGs.
4. The media industry is a vital stakeholder in achieving the SDGs. It is key in promoting solidarity and reinforcing accountability from global leaders so that they take the necessary bold decisions to realize the transformation we urgently need to realize the SDGs amidst the current crises. Fair and accurate reporting is a must.
5. We must continue to reinforce Secretary-General António Guterres’s calls to boost support for the media sector during last year’s [World Press Freedom Day](#).





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6. The message expected from this year's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), with the Voluntary National Reviews by 44 countries and the Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Progress Report 2022 is that Member States are falling far short of accomplishing the SDGs by the target date of 2030, unless they make extraordinary transformative efforts and reconstruct peace.
7. Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough, as the UN Secretary-General phrased it. Equitable access to the vaccines and financial resources are critical conditions to ensure an equitable recovery from the pandemic in both developed and developing countries.
8. The pandemic has also shown us the immense power of science and technologies to realize the SDGs. We have discovered new ways of delivering public services and identified the gaping disfunctioning in our social protection systems. We have rediscovered the role of governments and the power of NGOs and partnerships.
9. Our multilateral system requires a robust multi- stakeholder approach that promotes global solidarity, stronger international cooperation as well as decisions informed by all - - including the business sector and civil society- - and building partnerships.
10. We must support renewed global efforts to ensure inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth and tame inflation and its impacts on developing countries' debt. Enhanced international cooperation has never been more urgent with the additional impacts of the war in Ukraine on food security, energy, finance and the global economy.
11. It is also paramount to focus on addressing existing inequalities, among and within countries which is one of the declared priorities of my Presidency.
12. We need to rapidly change course. We must make bolder decisions that shape a better future for humanity, grounded in a comprehensive response to these interlinked global crises and a renewed commitment to multilateralism and solidarity.
13. Regrettably, Official Development Assistance (ODA) is not keeping pace with demand, and we see an emerging trend of its use for long-term development priorities being being sacrificed to mobilize humanitarian resources. Those are badly needed, but must be additional to aid.



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14. We must look to the longer-term and the achievement of the SDGs, while we deliver an emergency response to today's crises. The triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution must continue to top our agenda.



15. We look forward to a vibrant dialogue in today's Global Media Forum. Let us send a strong *call to action* to journalists in every country to engage in support of the achievement of the SDGs and to give hope to people in all countries that we can still achieve the better future we agreed on in the 2030 Agenda.



16. There are stories to tell and actions by people and communities around the world that must be shared. Journalists can be the inspiration and inject motivation and energy to scale up efforts and achieve the human prosperity that the world is yearning for -- if all SDGs would be implemented.



17. We also want to hear from you on how the UN, individual member states and the media could become better partners in achieving the SDGs. We would like your valuable engagement in the HLPF and in the SDG Summit in September next year.



18. This *call to action* is vital to mobilize the entire world to secure humanity's survival.

I thank you all for your kind attention.