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## Statements submitted by Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Theme: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

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### **1. Joint statement by: Alliance VITA, and Jurtistes pour l'enfance**

Reconnaître la maternité de substitution comme une forme d'exploitation des femmes. Par Alliance VITA & Juristes pour l'enfance

La crise sanitaire a mis en lumière les conséquences dramatiques du marché de la procréation et l'urgence d'accords internationaux pour interdire la maternité de substitution, appelée aussi gestation pour autrui.

En 2020, des centaines de nouveaux-nés issus de procédures de maternité de substitution ont été placés dans des orphelinats ou dans des lieux gérés par des « nounous », en attendant la réouverture des frontières internationales. Des situations nouvelles ont été révélées. En Chine, ce marché de la procréation s'est mis en place avec l'assouplissement de la politique de l'enfant unique. Les couples sont parfois trop âgés et donc n'ont pas pu bénéficier de cette réforme. Les Chinois commandent donc des enfants dans des agences russes, ukrainiennes et laotiennes, majoritairement, en exploitant le corps des femmes les plus défavorisées (Sustainable Goal n°5.2).

En Ukraine, où des clients viennent du monde entier, on estime ces naissances à 2000 par an. En 2020 une centaine de bébés étaient placés dans des chambres d'hôtel transformées en pouponnières. Ces situations dégradées en matière d'égalité des sexes (Sustainable Goal n°5) s'aggravent actuellement avec la guerre en Ukraine. La précarité et les difficultés économiques ont conduit nombre d'ukrainiennes à se soumettre à cette forme d'exploitation procréative. On dénombre environ 14 agences de procréation : le contrat signé par la mère porteuse donne à l'Agence et aux commanditaires un contrôle total sur la vie et le corps des mères porteuses.

En l'absence de politiques internationales pour interdire ces pratiques, des enquêtes, dont celle menée par le media français Le Figaro ont révélé que des mères porteuses ukrainiennes avaient été rapatriées en France uniquement pour faire naître les enfants et contourner le droit français qui interdit cette pratique.

L'Inde, la Thaïlande, le Népal ou encore le Mexique ont revu leurs législations pour interdire ou limiter la maternité de substitution en prenant conscience de l'exploitation des femmes de leurs pays. En 2015, le parlement européen a voté une résolution estimant que cette pratique « doit être interdite et qu'elle doit être examinée en priorité dans le cadre des instruments de défense des droits de l'homme ».

Le 3 mars 2023, des experts de 75 nationalités des 5 continents ont signé « la déclaration de Casablanca » demandant aux Etats de s'engager dans une Convention internationale en vue de l'abolition universelle de la maternité de substitution.

Pour appuyer cet engagement, nous proposons que la maternité de substitution soit reconnue comme une exploitation du corps des femmes au sein du sustainable goal n°5.2 et une violence faite aux femmes et aux enfants.

## **2. Joint statement by: Hellenic Association of Political Scientists, and Kallipatira**

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic all around the world provoked an unprecedented challenge for both policy-makers and individuals as it resulted in severe repercussions affecting global health and safety. In fact, more than any other time in the past, the international community assumed command of helping governments face and recover from the pandemic. Still, international actors and governments owe to continue working towards the total confrontation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) by creating a framework that will, at the same time, reciprocate effectively to Sustainable Development Goals.

The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists and KALLIPATIRA recognize and take into consideration the determinant role of the cooperative actions at all levels, from national to supranational. Governments, international agencies and the private sector need to come together for the development, funding and implementation of strategic plans that will help governments build sustainable and inclusive health systems, especially in the more vulnerable countries. Policies that address the COVID-19 pandemic should be part of a more resilient and sustainable framework, that aims to build regional and sub-regional capacities, capable of confronting effectively any other challenge would pose a threat to population's health.

Furthermore, mitigating the worst impacts of the pandemic means also addressing the urgent challenges related to economic losses, poverty and job losses. Policy and decision making should be held in a context that aims to overcome these challenges by implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, recovery from the pandemic, apart from strengthening health systems, means also building resilient economies, promoting gender equality and social inclusion in order to help the most vulnerable groups of the societies, also mostly affected by the pandemic. In fact, it is highly important that the international partners urge and advise governments to work their recovery by building strategic sustainable plans, always in accordance with UN's Sustainable Development Agenda.

In conclusion, the Hellenic Association of Political Scientists and KALLIPATIRA applaud and are willing to further support the United Nations' strategy towards the implementation and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals. Under this context, we firmly believe that continuing and further enhancing active and coordinated actions of all stakeholders, can have a significant impact on the effort of the international community to deal with current threats posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Without any doubt, current mobilization has successfully created the necessary framework to accelerate the progress towards a more sustainable and safe future for all.

## **3. Joint statement by: Criminologists Without Borders Inc, and World Society of Victimology**

The World Society of Victimology (WSV) and Criminologists Without Borders (CWB) are committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through research and evidence-based advocacy. This statement provides a feminist approach to recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, as it relates to three categories of women involved in criminal legal systems worldwide: victims/survivors, incarcerated persons, and workers in the system. We provide an overview of the gendered inequalities faced by each group and offer policy recommendations, related to the priority theme of the High-Level Political Forum, addressing Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, 10, and 16.

According to the World Health Organization, before the pandemic, one in three women, aged fifteen and older, were subject to physical and sexual violence. As UN Women reported, the Coronavirus-related lockdowns produced a shadow pandemic, in which women and girls were trapped at home with their abusers, without access to support services. We must acknowledge the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls worldwide and how it was exacerbated by the

Coronavirus pandemic. We must prioritize ending violence against women and girls worldwide and ensure that survivors have information on available resources and access to services.

Women are incarcerated for non-violent offenses and their incarceration is growing worldwide. In the pandemic, prisons instituted strict lockdowns and suspended visitations, leaving incarcerated people isolated from the outside world. Given the gendered pattern of abuse, trauma, and mental health issues for incarcerated women, the lockdowns aggravated trauma symptoms. Because most incarcerated women are primary care providers, ending visitation produced emotional trauma for mothers and children. We must harness the political backing that propelled decarceration in the pandemic, as a strategy for ending the use of incarceration for non-violent offenses.

Women workers in criminal legal systems have been historically underrepresented and face steep pandemic-related losses. Pandemic-related school closures created additional childcare hours and forced millions of women to leave the workforce. In the criminal legal professions, where women are severely under-represented, we must acknowledge the purposeful, historic exclusion of women and mainstream gender curriculum into the traditionally male trainings and education. We must invest in the care economy and call on men to take on a more equitable share of responsibilities as care providers. We must encourage the recruitment, promotion, and retention of women.

#### **4. Association on sustainable development and investment climate improvement, uniting investors and creditors “World Organization for Development”**

WOD conducts research in the field of sustainable development, factors affecting the dynamics and stability of achieving the SDGs, and searches for hidden systemic reserves that can give a significant and long-term impetus to sustainable development.

An analysis of the experience of combating COVID-19 shows that governors and governor teams have made a significant practical contribution to the fight and overcoming the consequences of COVID-19. The heads and leaders of the upper-level territorial entities and their teams (states, provinces, regions, cities of central subordination, lands, districts, and special administrative regions) in practice implemented all the goals and objectives set by the WHO and governments. The heads of territorial entities and their teams mobilized mayors of cities and the population to fight COVID-19.

The situation is complicated not only by COVID-19, but also by the growing dynamics of regional conflicts, sanctions and information confrontation, international supply chains have been disrupted. Geopolitics came to the fore, and sustainable development receded into the background.

An important question arose: who, besides the UN, will really be engaged in the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, if the heads of state and federal governments have chosen geopolitics and confrontation as a priority?

Moreover, it is necessary to attract those who really have experience, teams, powers, legislative initiative, budgets, and influence in society. And most importantly, we need those who are really responsible in practice in states for economic, innovative, technological, environmental, and sustainable development in general, but at the same time, they are not directly involved in foreign policy.

We present to the UN and the High-Level Political Forum a proposal that can give a systemic impetus to sustainable development for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

In 2021, the UN designated as SDG Good Practices an Initiative proposed by WOD: Global Initiative for Sustainable Development of Territorial Entities #SDGAction33410 <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/global-initiative-sustainable-development-territorial-entities>

The mission of the Initiative is to create a governor's dialogue platform for the exchange of effective practices and successful experience in the management and development of the Territorial Entities of the countries of the world in order to achieve the SDGs, as well as initiate the establishment of the United Nations Territorial Development Program.

Territorial entities are customers, producers, consumers and transmitters of products of the new technological order and their potential, for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for all 17 Goals and 169 Tasks, will be effectively implemented by the UN Territorial Development Program, using the tools of the Global Initiative for the Sustainable Development of Territorial.

### **5. Joint statement by: World Federation for Animals, Inc., Animal People Inc, The Born Free Foundation Limited, Brighter Green Inc, Cruelty Free International, Humane Society of the United States, The Brooke, and Vier Pfoten International – gemeinnützige Privatstiftung**

We recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/4 on the Animal welfare–environment–sustainable development nexus, which acknowledged “that animal welfare can contribute to addressing environmental issues, promoting the “One Health” approach and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.” In order to translate the nexus into action, we need to better understand the complex linkages among its three components and act on them.

Animal welfare is essential to addressing biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. We must move to reduce global consumption of animal source foods (particularly in countries with high per capita consumption) while promoting sustainable crop agriculture and innovative technologies such as plant-based alternatives, precision fermentation and cellular meat. Such methods can help facilitate just transitions in food production for the benefit of human health, food security and the environment. Reducing animal consumption can reduce land conversion and biodiversity loss, since crops can feed many more people directly than if used as animal feed, and reduces pollution from animal wastes as well as fertilizers and pesticides used on feed crops. As acknowledged by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, promoting diets low in animal products can reduce emissions, mitigate climate change and improve resilience. Where communities presently rely on animal agriculture, it is important to facilitate just transitions while preventing traditional farming methods from being replaced by industrial animal farming. In places where people currently depend on working animals for agriculture and transportation, improving animal welfare can provide gains for food security, livelihoods, and community resilience to disasters.

Animal welfare is also key for achieving good public health and sustainable development. COVID-19 and previous zoonotic epidemics and pandemics such as SARS, avian flu and swine flu exposed how historic neglect of animal welfare and health, trade in wild animals, and intensive animal agriculture can have catastrophic consequences for human lives and the global economy. Animals experiencing good welfare are more likely to be healthy, protecting people from zoonotic spillovers. In light of the need for effective vaccines and cures for diseases, an evidence-based paradigm shift to human relevant science and away from animal-based testing is also becoming increasingly urgent.

It is frequently said that we live in an interconnected world. Policies, programmes and funding mechanisms must recognize the connections between animal welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals, to accelerate recovery from COVID-19 and fully implement the 2030 Agenda. Without animal welfare, human life and the natural world cannot thrive.

## **6. Adolescent Breast and Pelvic Cancer Awareness Initiative**

Recovery from Coronavirus impact is recovering from Coronavirus diseases. Recovery from gender violence, restoring gender good health, gender empowerment/ employment are the stick yards for accelerating recovery from Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), on gender related matter. During COVID-19 lockdown, many women, girls, and children were exposed to different forms of gender violence, hunger, poverty etc. We appeal to United Nations to look into, study, examine ministry of gender Affairs and social development in Enugu state and Nigeria at large, their methods, patterns, speed responding on gender violence cases, gender related matter. Gender violence cases should receive speed attention to promote quick recovery and speed relief pains from gender violence case. Hence to restore gender good health and wellbeing on time especially for all classes of gender in Enugu state Nigeria. One conciliator method delays the gender cases whereas thousands of gender cases are waiting for attention in the ministry of gender affairs and social development. Although accelerating the recovery from Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) varies from one country to another. Women in rural zones in Enugu state are hardly heat by poverty, COVID- 19, their health should be given due consideration by the state government. Women in rural zones in Enugu state are mainly farmers, COVID-19 pandemic affect both human, animals and plants etc. Majority of the rural women, civil society organizations (non-governmental organization) etc need good health package, financial support/ grant, from State government and international organizations to boost good health, increase productivity, create wealth through agriculture, promote community development projects to crush unemployment, fight poverty, hunger in rural zones and provide foods for larger growing population etc. We, Adolescent Breast and Pelvic Cancer Awareness Initiative is calling on United Nations, international organizations to partner on our planned health projects (Gender Specialist hospital), COVID -19 may not be the last pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic have force the whole world to confront our broken system. Let plan ahead to prevent/ recovery from Coronavirus diseases and future pandemic diseases. Gender empowerment/ employment will restate financial status. It will increase good living, promote volume of business and contribute to gender speed recovery. Complete recovery from Coronavirus diseases may take time, Time shall heal the wounds of Coronavirus diseases. Let join hands promote healthy, happier world. Recover the world from Coronavirus diseases it's impact and future pandemic through professional medical care in Enugu State Nigeria.

## **7. Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation**

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation is an organisation committed to ensuring that every orphaned child living in poverty has access to the tools and opportunities they need to overcome their difficult experiences.

We have been providing dignified and comprehensive care to children in Iraq since 2006 and currently sponsor 95,452 children there.

Based on the successful model we have developed over the past 17 years; we have been working towards expanding our efforts both within Iraq and internationally.

Within Iraq, we now have 4 Luminous Stars centres. These vocational training centres provide orphaned youth and widows with the opportunity to develop skills to become financially independent in the long run. These centres are part of our efforts towards various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 - eradicating poverty, SDG 8 - promoting decent work and economic growth and SDG 10 reducing inequalities.

More recently, the centres have started to offer medical support such as paediatric and dental care. This is in line with our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 24 – the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as well as SDG 3, the goal of attaining good health and well-being for all.

Internationally, we are continuing our work in Afghanistan and in early 2022, we established operations in Ghana. Our work there includes providing financial assistance to orphaned children, as well as family assistance grants, housing assistance and medical support extending to widowed mothers. Our aim, through the work we do, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or Ghana



is constantly in furtherance of SDG 1, to eradicate poverty, by supporting some of the most vulnerable groups in society.

This Ramadan, we continued our tradition of running a Food Distribution Programme. Working towards SDG 2, the goal of zero hunger, we delivered approximately 37,215 food packages in total across Iraq, Ghana and Afghanistan.

As we forge ahead in the recovery from COVID-19 as a global community, we look forward to working with international partners to ensure that children everywhere, not only survive, but thrive.

### **8. AlterContacts**

The objective of the statement is to draw attention to the role that micro and small businesses play in accelerating the resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose is to recommend a way to recognize their contribution and include them in the Agenda 2030.

With more than two-thirds of the global population employed by micro, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship is key in sustainable development and an inclusive recovery. It contributes directly to social inclusion, gender equality, and creating decent employment for the youth (SDG 8, 9) and enabling us to rebuild in a more resilient way as a global partnership (SDG 17).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Think Tank AlterContacts interviewed more than 350 small businesses from 42 countries, 5 continents in 17 languages, and 78 economic activities to gather ingenious examples of what entrepreneurs did to save their businesses. What stood out in every story was how disregarding their own hardships, small businesses took responsibility for others: their families, employees, customers, and community – helping to restore the global economy in the most sustainable way. These findings were referenced in the UN Report of the Secretary-General A/77/254 on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development.

Despite the efforts of the international community on engaging the private sector in Agenda 2030, micro and small businesses and their contribution to SDG remain unheard. They do not have the same opportunities to advance their sustainability efforts. Available channels to take part in reporting SDG activities or apply for funds resemble an exclusive club for large organisations.

In order to achieve the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, we have to focus on inclusion of micro and small businesses and their SDG contribution, as much as it does on large businesses and governmental agencies. We need to spread the encouraging examples of sustainable entrepreneurship and unique peer-to-peer knowledge gathered through the COVID-19 pandemic among a wider community of entrepreneurs, especially women, youth, migrants.

A way forward would be to create a simple mechanism (e.g. public online form) whereby micro and small businesses have a way to voluntarily report their efforts on SDG implementation on an ongoing basis. It is important to recognize the contributors with a written appreciation that they can share with friends and colleagues to inspire others by example.

As Think Tank AlterContacts, we are ready to join a working group to create this mechanism and give voice to the underrepresented social groups enabling them to showcase their contribution to SDGs.

### **9. Amigos do Protocolo de Kyoto**

Amigos do Protocolo de Kyoto has been following the implementation of SDGs in relation to AI very closely.

How does United Nations think to address the problem of using AI to reach the Sustainable Development Goals especially in relation to ending poverty and inequalities. Also to address the problem of the negative impacts of AI on the life of humanity.

In particular what does UN think of organoid intelligence.

As we know a cerebral organoid, or brain organoid, describes an artificially grown, in vitro, miniature organ resembling the brain.

Cerebral organoids are created by culturing pluripotent stem cells in a three-dimensional rotational bioreactor, and they develop over a course of months.

Lab-grown brain organoids act as biological hardware but do pose moral and ethical issues.

Also how to address these ethical issues:

Might AI and algorithms infringe fundamental human rights—from privacy and data confidentiality to freedom of choice?

How can we ensure that social and cultural stereotypes are not replicated in AI, when it comes to gender discrimination?

How can we ensure accountability when decisions and actions are fully automated?

How do we ensure that AI is developed in a transparent way?

In fact Image generators can create almost life-like images, which has raised concerns about artistic integrity and abuse.

AI has been accused of propagating human biases, namely because AI technologies are trained using data provided by humans.

Possible mitigation of the potential for bias by examining the underlying data used to train AI systems.

There are concerns about data privacy, security and usage practices.

What does the UN plan to do about these issues?

### **10. Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities**

The priority theme of the 2023 ECOSOC High-level Segment is "accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels." This theme is of utmost importance given the ongoing pandemic and the urgent need to achieve SDG by 2030 while mitigating the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and waste & pollution. In this context, the NGO campaigns the 'Green Campus Initiatives & Lab-to-Land Environment Education' programs as a sustainable approach to mitigating the crisis and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels by bringing changes in attitude and lifestyle among diverse actors and generating real-time data for effective and sustainable management of available resources while restoring the degraded resources crucial to human and animal survival and welfare.

The priority of the programs is participation, on-campus baseline mapping, assessment, accreditation, topsoil protection, ecological restoration, and resource upcycling. It emphasizes responsible consumption, resource conservation, pollution prevention, waste management, eco-innovation, and infrastructure development for sustainable campuses, cities, and communities.

A way forward Based on the issues highlighted above, the following are some recommendations and policy measures where Governments and all stakeholders should work together at all levels:

1. Institutionalizing the 2030 Agenda in all organized sectors in a way that is conducive to peer learning, tailored to local needs, evidence-based and novel experience sharing to identify gaps and good practices and forge partnerships.
2. Prioritizing International Declarations, Charters, and Agreements that promote a top-down approach, where global leaders work together to ensure the implementation.
3. Increasing awareness, training, and capacity building for stakeholder participation at the local level
4. Emphasizing real-time data-driven initiatives with data collection and its use, digitalization, and dissemination to help identify problems and track progress.
5. Increasing national and regional government engagement to take an integrated approach to plan, deliver and monitor policies and interventions that promote collaboration.

## **11. Association for the Rights of Children in Southeast Asia (ARCSEA) Inc.**

Street connected children remain invisible to government and intergovernmental programs and processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite street connected children being primarily defined by their location in urban areas and many of their core issues relate to urbanization, they remain invisible to SDG 11 and its processes. The same goes for the Global Urban Monitoring Framework of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme despite its aim of ensuring the inclusion of groups that are traditionally excluded.

Street connected children relate to Target 11.1 on housing and basic services, but their legal status and identity and economic situation prevent them from accessing such services. Target 11.7 on universal access to public spaces may not cover the use of spaces as shelter or as areas for informal livelihoods. Their access to these public spaces, including cultural and natural heritage highlighted by Target 11.4 may greatly be affected by the prevailing notion that street connected children are an eyesore and security threat.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative of the United Nations Children's Fund was a response to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. The conference stated that the wellbeing of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and of good governance. But children come from a range of socioeconomic contexts. Those who live in poverty and exclusion, especially street connected children, their wellbeing is therefore the best indicator. The Child Friendly Cities Initiative's guiding principle states that a child-friendly city aims to create equal opportunities for all children. This entails identifying the most marginalized and vulnerable children, the barriers to inclusion that they face and removing these barriers.

Additionally, General comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child highlights their importance and guides States in addressing their situation.

The General comment and the guiding principles of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative should guide SDG 11.

The concept of leaving no one behind should not only be appreciated as an end goal. It should be a principle applied even in the process of achieving the goal. To not leave street connected children behind, they should be substantially, consistently and directly included in SDG 11 and the overall discourse on urbanization.

## **12. Association Nationale pour Promouvoir la Société Civile et la Citoyenneté**

Afin de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), nous avons le plaisir de faire la déclaration suivante,

La pandémie COVID-19 a gravement freiné les programmes de développement durable visant à atteindre les ODD horizon 2030 et par conséquent il est impératif d'œuvrer ensemble afin de

consolider des partenariats nationaux, régionaux et internationaux capables d'assurer un avenir plus durable et plus inclusif pour les 8 milliards d'habitants sur notre planète.

A titre d'exemple, et pour réaliser les ODD 1, 6, 14, 15, 8, 17, notre association a lancé un projet, en partenariat avec le ministère de la jeunesse et des sports Algérien, sous le thème « le tourisme solidaire et le développement durable » un projet qui, durant deux années a mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'encourager l'entrepreneuriat et la création de micro-entreprises dans le domaine du tourisme solidaire, elle a organisé des échanges touristiques entre les wilayas à vocation touristique, présenté des conférences et des campagnes sensibilisatrices sur l'entrepreneuriat dans le secteur du tourisme solidaire, organisé des campagnes écologiques de reboisement et de nettoyage dans des milieux terrestres et aquatiques et des actions de solidarité à l'image de caravanes médicales au profit des populations démunies et fragiles, touchant ainsi quelques 3000 citoyens et citoyennes dans les 34 wilayas visées.

Aussi, il est temps de miser sur l'intelligence artificielle dans les domaines de l'agriculture, l'éducation, la santé, la sécurité, le transport et le secteur des finances, et de renforcer l'écosystème de l'innovation pour le hisser au niveau des aspirations de l'humanité, un écosystème qui puisse garantir les mécanismes de financement adéquats, à travers la diversification et la multiplication des dispositifs dédiés à la création et au soutien des start-up afin de permettre aux jeunes porteurs de projets innovants de concrétiser leurs idées et contribuer au développement économique et social.

L'autre défis à relever pour accompagner la réalisation des ODD consiste à combattre la croissance démographique vertigineuse dans le monde et la dégradation des végétations et autres forêts qui combattent le CO2 par la photosynthèse, une dégradation causée par les feux de forêts, l'abattage excessif des arbres et des animaux indispensables à l'écosystème et l'avancée sauvage du béton ainsi que les changements climatiques. Ces deux facteurs contribuent à l'augmentation de l'émission de gaz à effets de serres, au fléau de l'eau insalubre et la pénurie d'eau potable, à la dégradation de la fertilité des terres agricoles, à l'utilisation excessive de gaz et de charbon pour cuisiner et se réchauffer et de carburant pour les moyens de transport, à la nécessité de multiplier l'offre de l'emploi, d'accélérer et de multiplier la production industrielle et agricole pour subvenir aux besoins d'une telle population,

Ceci dit, je propose d'œuvrer ensemble – en parallèle avec la promotion et le développement des technologies vertes - pour parvenir à établir une convention internationale, obligeante, permettant la limitation des naissances.

### **13. ASTM International**

ASTM International, one of the largest global standards development organizations, is grateful for the opportunity to share information. Following is information about the successful partnerships that ASTM has been implementing for more than a century and our impact and contribution to accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

ASTM's process and structure support equity, inclusion, and diversity, allowing every voice to be heard without distinguishing among the perspectives, no matter who is commenting and where they are located.

Now in its 125th year of operation, ASTM International continues providing a practical, science-based forum for over 30,000 volunteer scientific and business professionals from 150 nations for the development of data-driven consensus standards. These public and private sector stakeholders develop and maintain more than 13,000 standards which are formulated in an open and transparent process. The results are best practice solutions that address health, safety, quality, innovation, and trade needs in over 90 industry sectors. In addition to standards, ASTM provides innovative solutions in the form of laboratory services and training.

ASTM standards relate to 12 of the 17 UN SDGs. With a strong presence in the construction, environment, technology, health, and energy sectors, ASTM standards especially align with the terms/targets for sustainable cities and communities, industry, innovation and infrastructure, good health and well-being, affordable and clean energy, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.

Since 2001, ASTM International has been establishing worldwide partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with both national and regional standardization bodies, most in developing countries. The agreement offers several mutual benefits.

- Enhanced communication between both organizations
- On-line access to the full collection of ASTM standards
- No-cost membership in any of ASTM's more than 145 technical committees enabling developing nations the opportunity to influence the content and relevance of the standards
- Access to tailored capacity building on procedural and technical sessions.

Between March 2020 and October 2022, ASTM International, in partnership with the Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ), an agency within Viet Nam's Ministry of Science and Technology, the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization and the World Bank's International Finance Committee, completed over 10 successful workshops,<sup>x</sup> highlighting technical standards on personal protective equipment. Each program engaged more than 60 participants and welcomed the excellent participation of public and private sector speakers in the respective nations.

ASTM International has also collaborated with many United Nations agencies, for example, sharing interests in advancing health (WHO), environmental protection (UNEP), resilience (UNDRR), transportation (ICAO and IMO), and gender equity (UN ECE). ASTM International looks forward to more opportunities to discuss initiatives and potential partnerships to drive action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **14. Aula Abierta**

Academic freedom and the right to education are pivotal to achieve all the sustainable development goals in the 2030 UN Agenda, especially SDGs 4, 5, 16. Yet, the academic community and universities are under continuous attacks and challenges worldwide as it was recognized on March 29, 2023 by 72 permanent missions of States to the UN in Geneva in a joint statement.

Our organization has documented, alongside universities' human rights centers and scholars, how in Latin America academics are feeling less able to teach, publish and research in a manner that is free from government interference. In some countries, harassment and reprisals against universities, students, researchers, and lecturers are more explicit and even amount to physical threats, detention and violence. For example, the scholars of the Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences in Venezuela were the target of threats by the Venezuelan authorities after the publication of a report warning of a possible new outbreak of Covid cases in 2020.

In addition, higher education institutions are targeted due to their engagement in the discussion of public affairs. For instance, Aula Abierta documented that in Nicaragua, the universities that criticized the human rights violations against demonstrators in 2018, got their legal certification cancelled by the Government, like the Polytechnic National University of Nicaragua (UPOLI by its acronym in Spanish). Between April 2018 and April 2023, the number of universities that suffered cancellation of their legal certification reached 25 universities.

Finally, in many countries, the budget restrictions adopted since the COVID-19 pandemic against universities remain in place, and in some cases it has worsened. The mentioned measures led to the closure of courses and programs within universities, resulting in students dropping out and significant learning loss for many students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds who lack access to remote learning opportunities. Dropping out of higher education studies affects women more, as they face a higher risk of teenage pregnancy, engaged in unpaid care work and limited career opportunities, which can result in a lifetime of inequality.

The violations of academic freedom and right to education, alongside the attacks against the academic community, prevents societies from achieving gender equality, peace, and justice. Therefore, we call the High-Level Segment to urge states to enhance the protection of knowledge and the academic community by adopting normative standards recognizing academic freedom as a human right, the need for special protection of the academic community and proper funding for universities, following as a reference the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

### **15. Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (C.A.R.I.)**

« Accélérer la reprise après COVID-19 et la mise en œuvre intégrale de l'Agenda 2030 du Développement Durable à tous les niveaux ».

L'homme possède des capacités nécessaires pour surmonter diverses difficultés. Dans le cas du Covid-19 tout comme dans celui de l'Agenda 2030, il a les moyens de contrer, d'accélérer, de ralentir ou d'enrayer tous facteurs qui peut avoir un impact négatif. Le COVID-19 qui s'est déclaré en 2019, bien qu'il ait été un coup dur pour l'homme, son économie et son environnement, n'a pas été un coup fatal, puisqu'en fin de compte, il a été vaincu par l'homme. C'est de la même manière que les pandémies de Choléra, Fièvre espagnol et fièvre jaune, Ebola, etc. ont été vaincues. Il est certain que les confinements décidés par différents pays pour contenir l'expansion du COVID, ont crevé les économies avec impact sur le social.

Aujourd'hui, les statistiques favorables sur l'évolution de la pandémie COVID-19, donnent l'espoir que la reprise est possible. Mais elle est conditionnelle. Ni la reprise, ni la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 du Développement Durable ne nous paraît mystérieuse. La volonté, la détermination, l'engagement, la mise au point des stratégies sont des facteurs importants pour réaliser les programmes de développement au niveau des nations et de la planète.

L'expérience malheureuse que nous vivons actuellement de l'accélération de l'armement de l'armée rwandaise et des mouvements insurrectionnels à l'Est de la RDC est patente. Si ces mêmes d'efforts étaient consacrés à la mise en œuvre des programmes de développement, ils profiteraient aux populations pour qui ils sont conçus. Mais si c'est pour un quelconque positionnement des grandes puissances, c'est ne sera que de la peine perdue. Aucun programme convenu n'aboutira quel que soit le miracle car, les efforts matériels et financiers sont consacrés à lutte pour ce positionnement.

Notre conscience doit nous interpeller. Investissons les efforts dans l'avancement des programmes de développement et non dans les programmes de domination, d'écrasement des autres. Notre monde que nous voulons tous n'est pas celui-là.

En notre qualité de la composante de la société civile en RD Congo, nous profitons de l'occasion pour faire les recommandations suivantes :

- Accélérer le partenariat pour le développement durable
- Arrêter tout programme de déstabilisation des autres nations, et d'armement des groupes rebelles, de l'ingérence dans les pays en difficulté.

Apporter un appui conséquent pays en transition ou en retard de l'implémentation des ODD, en vue de leur permettre d'avancer avant 2025 en termes de création des entreprises pour donner du travail à la population, seul moyen de lutter contre la pauvreté.

## **16. Centre for Convention On Democratic Integrity Ltd/Gte**

The primary objective of this statement is to highlight the post-covid 19 pandemic impacts on the 2030 Agenda and propose a sustainable measure(s) to mitigate this post pandemic crisis and get back on track to achieving the targets set in the SDG's.

Least Developing Countries (LDC) tend to prioritize the implementation of basic and urgent SDGs. Due to limited financial and facility conditions, LDCs tend to give priority to achieving goals for solving people's basic needs. For example, in Malawi, more efforts have been dedicated to Health (Goal 3), Education (Goal 4), Gender (Goal 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), Sustainable Cities (Goal 11), and Strong Institutions (Goal 16). Sierra Leone has prioritized Education (Goal 4) and Access to Justice (Goal 16).

The COVID-19 crisis significantly halted and, in most cases, reversed the progress made so far in achieving national well-being targets and the SDGs in most countries. Nevertheless, many of the primary impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in Nigeria have been economic, rather than health related. The early part of the COVID-19 crisis ushered in, Nigeria's deepest recession since the 1980s, with services and industry hit particularly hard. This partly stemmed from lockdown measures restricting people's ability to go to work in addition to the price of oil – which represents more than 80 percent of Nigeria's exports and more than 50 percent of government revenues – tumbled more than 60 percent between February and May 2020. In the later stages of the COVID-19 crisis, while economic activities began to recover, inflation started to accelerate, especially for food items that are crucial for consumption among the poor and vulnerable till date.

There is a need to adjust the path and focus of the next phase of the SDGs' implementation in a post-pandemic era. Center for Convention on Democratic Integrity (CCDI) believes the most important way forward post-pandemic period would be policy coherence brought about through policy re-evaluation and review to sustainably achieve the targets set in the Global Goals.

As countries move towards recovery, POLICY COHERENCE is essential to supporting a transition towards sustainable development. This is necessary to steady short-term economic growth objectives and long-term sustainability and resilience goals. A sustainable recovery requires coherent policies that take into account transboundary impacts to avoid prolonging the recession, aggravating the global effects of the crisis and reversing progress on the SDGs.

There is not one way to successfully collaborate, and each partnership needs to be designed to respond to its specific context. Experience from leading institutions in establishing partnerships is key and can support others in the rapid response needed for effective collaboration.

## **17. Centre for Public Health**

The Centre for Public Health (CPH) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious organization in Nigeria that was founded in 1997. Working in collaboration with regional health centers, community centers, and educational institutions, the CPH raises awareness of health issues facing rural Nigerians.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Nigeria, the CPH was quick to respond to the crisis by using its broad network of medical professionals, educators, and activists to spread urgent information regarding the virus. It partnered with 45 Catholic parishes to create a food bank to help feed over 5,000 families who were unable to secure food due to shelter-in-place orders. Through these networks, the CPH also built a menstrual hygiene bank to distribute sanitary supplies to women.

The CPH also continues to provide health services through telemedicine, allowing patients to receive care without risking covid exposure.

One of the major issues that the CPH identified during the pandemic was the rise in domestic violence, particularly affecting women and children in rural areas. To address this, the CPH has created an app-based microfinance loan program to help women gain financial independence, which in turn can reduce the economic stress that can lead to domestic violence. The program also provides a way for women to report instances of abuse, and the CPH deploys representatives to their location to provide support.

The CPH calls upon the world to take action to address women's issues that were intensified during the pandemic. We must do more than just discuss women's issues. Support needs to be directed to in-person actions and interventions. This is especially important in rural areas where internet access and digital advocacy are limited and often unknown.

CPH will continue to support the health and development of rural populations, in particular rural women and survivors of domestic abuse. The CPH will continue to build local and global partnerships where organizational goals will result in real-world action. By continuing to build food bank networks and access to menstrual hygiene, the CPH will improve the quality of life for thousands affected by poverty.

## **18. Centro UNESCO De Donostia-San Sebastián**

Participation de la population, développement des ressources humaines et coopération. Éléments du développement basés sur les idéaux du système des Nations Unies.

Les objectifs du développement (ODD) basés sur les idéaux du système des Nations Unies sont :

1. Analyser la question de la participation en se basant sur les possibilités de développement personnel et social qui en découlent, en proposant des activités concrètes ;
2. Établir des stratégies d'intervention éducative pour la participation ;
3. Délimiter les critères d'action essentiels afin de réussir la participation de la population ;
4. Découvrir l'importance que l'effort de favoriser les ressources humaines a sur le développement ;
5. Analyser deux documents internationaux et s'apercevoir de la potentialité qu'on pourrait déduire de leur application pour la compréhension et la coopération internationales ;
6. Connaître les mécanismes fondamentaux pour le bon fonctionnement d'une équipe de travail par la mise en pratique de certaines orientations applicables au déroulement d'un programme concret de formation.

Le développement des ressources humaines qui découle de la participation, suppose une telle autonomie et indépendance que les individus ainsi constitués deviennent les principaux garants du développement social. C'est-à-dire qu'il ne faut plus attendre que le développement et le progrès soient le résultat uniquement d'investissements massifs en technologie. Il s'agit de favoriser la participation parce que celle-ci humanise mais aussi parce qu'elle est un nouveau facteur de développement.

La participation, qui semble un talisman capable de nous sortir du marasme de l'éphémère, de la crise des valeurs, de la crise économique ou de la crise politique, est donc la raison d'être de l'animation en relation étroite avec celle du système des Nations Unies qui orientent également leur travail vers la consécution de la participation de tous dans la construction de la paix et contribuant ainsi au développement.



Une bonne base pour la participation populaire est celle formée par les associations et les groupes institutionnalisés. C’est à partir de leur fonctionnement démocratique et solidaire que pourra émaner l’apprentissage d’une participation capable d’influencer efficacement le fonctionnement de la société en général. Apprendre tout en ayant de l’influence c’est participer en transformant.

Les Organisations Non Gouvernementales –ONG– sont une forme de participation populaire et elles se constituent sur la base de la participation en tant qu’élément et principe clé.

L’expression “organisation non gouvernementale” est très ample. Dans son sens le plus strict, elle décrit les organisations qui ne font pas partie du gouvernement et dont les membres ne sont pas des gouvernements : des organisations volontaires privées, des groupes communautaires, des associations commerciales et professionnelles, des syndicats, des organisations académiques et scientifiques.

### **19. ChildFund Alliance (ECOSOC-accredited as “Christian Children’s Fund”)**

Leave No Child Behind!

ChildFund Alliance recognizes the unprecedented threat that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ensuing urgency to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including its central promise to “leave no one behind.” Yet it is precisely the fulfilment of this central commitment – in particular ensuring that children are not left behind – of which the international community is falling short.

It is imperative we double-down now and create targeted plans and policies to protect children, who are the future. Children are more likely to live in poverty than adults and are more vulnerable to its detrimental effects which often last a lifetime. It is therefore crucial to measure multi-dimensional child poverty and invest in children to break intergenerational cycles of poverty, inequality, and instability – all of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the compounding polycrisis of war, hunger, climate change, cyber threats, and cost of living, to name only a few. ChildFund Alliance thus urges the international community to commit to accelerating efforts across all SDGs to ensure children in particular are not left behind. Concrete actions that can directly improve a child’s wellbeing across the SDGs under review include:

SDG 6: Constructing new community water access points, including hand-washing stations; repairing broken and unsafe sources of water; training families how to maintain water access points and how to test and treat drinking water; and spreading awareness about hygiene and sanitation.

SDG 7: Fulfilling children’s right to information on energy conservation/efficiency and climate change through: Environmental awareness education; children’s inclusion in the action and responses to the energy crisis; and enhancing children’s readiness through skills development and preparedness.

SDG 9: Connecting every school to the internet and concurrently teaching digital literacy skills to ensure all children can navigate the internet safely.

SDG 11: Improving disaster risk reduction (DRR) capabilities through the participation and leadership of children; building on successful youth-led DRR models; and mainstreaming DRR into regular programming and community development.

SDG 17: Partnering effectively with public and private sector entities in order to achieve maximum impact for children’s well-being; and seeking collaborations that increase and maximize resources for programs focused on addressing emerging threats to children’s safety.

### **20. CIBJO – The World Jewellery Confederation**

In the difficult economic environment that has developed in the wake of COVID-19, the membership of World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) plays both a critical and challenging strategic role. For while the end-consumers for the luxury products that they produce predominantly reside in high-income countries, where the ravages of the pandemic have largely subsided, a major proportion of the raw materials that they require are sourced in lower-income countries, where the social and economic aftershocks of the coronavirus period are still being felt, placing sustainable development programmes in peril.

The presence of CIBJO members in these low-income countries, most of which are ranked in the lowest tier of the UN's Human Development Index (HDI < 0.55), provides them both with an in-depth understanding of conditions on the ground, and ample opportunity to support grass-roots economic programmes that encourage sustainable opportunity. This is not only a moral imperative, but a business requirement as well, because the now dominant Millennial and Gen Z consumers of high-end jewellery products are more than inclined to demand that the products, they buy demonstrably provide social and economic benefit along the entire supply chain.

CIBJO thus actively supports the 2023 ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum theme. It is worth noting that CIBJO programmes in 2023 are designed to support SDG 9, which seeks to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, focusing on Target 9.2 (promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization), and Target 9.3 (increasing access to financial services and markets); and SDG 17, developing partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Target 17.1 (mobilizing resources to improve domestic revenue collection), Target 17.5 (investing in least-developed countries), Target 17.6 (knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation), Target 17.11 (increasing the exports of developing countries) and Target 17.13 (enhancing global macroeconomic stability).

Among the most vulnerable sectors in the jewellery pipeline are those involved in artisanal mining, or sometimes what is referred to as the informal mining sector. The percentage of artisanal mining input varies according to product type, accounting for about 20 percent of both the global gold and diamond supply, but 80 percent of the supply of colored gemstones.

CIBJO contends that, to be able to meet the challenge of the ECOSOC HLPF theme and the SDGs, artisanal miners need to be provided monitored but achievable access to established industry supply chains, and that will be achieved by the development of formal due diligence systems to ensure compliance with accepted responsible sourcing standards.

To enable such due diligence to be conducted, in September 2022 CIBJO and Intertek Italia SpA launched the first-ever training and internationally recognized certification programme for sustainability officers working in the jewellery industry. The programme is being offered on a dedicated e-training platform, presented by sustainability experts with special expertise in the gem and jewellery industries.

CIBJO has the responsibility to implement the SDGs through smart, efficient, and innovative partnerships. We are committed to their realization.

### **21. CLAN (Caring & Living as Neighbours) Incorporated**

Leveraging learnings from the COVID-19 Pandemic to improve access to essential medicines and achieve the SDGs – a role for the @MATES4Kids Movement

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic saw unprecedented interruptions to essential medicines and equipment supply chains. Access to human, technical, transport and raw material resources was limited, resulting in severe medicines and equipment shortages internationally. Existing challenges were exacerbated in resource poor countries, and high-income countries have struggled to return to pre-pandemic access some three years on.

A report launched by the World Health Organisation in March 2023 (“Access to NCD medicines: emergent issues during the COVID-19 pandemic and key structural factors”) highlighted challenges Members faced in accessing essential medicines required by people living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The situation in resource poor settings was particularly dire, and survival of people living with conditions that require non-interrupted supplies of life-saving medicines was compromised. The report provided a range of recommendations on the steps needed to safeguard supply chains moving forward and improve medication shortage notification systems.

Whilst childhood cancer was highlighted in the report, children and young people are affected by a broad range of NCDs, many of which require uninterrupted supplies of essential medicines for survival. All children living with NCDs have a basic human right to health and life, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly speaks to the responsibilities we all share to protect and promote their rights.

Innovative actions taken by civil society during the pandemic to secure access to life-saving childhood NCD medicines highlighted the potential for scaled, collaborative and multistakeholder efforts to accelerate efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030. Supply chain interruptions result not just from pandemics, but also natural disasters, wars, financial crises, entrenched poverty and structural inequities. Specific initiatives safe-guarding children living with NCDs in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Indonesia and Zimbabwe proved more could be achieved.

The @MATES4Kids (Maximising Access To Essential Supplies for Children) movement was founded by Caring and Living As Neighbours (CLAN) in 2021 to unite a broad range of stakeholders across all six regions of the World Health Organisation within a Community of Practice to facilitate and scale collaborative action to reduce the preventable mortality associated with one specific NCD of childhood (Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)) by 30% by 2030. The @MATES4Kids movement commits to improving access to essential medicines, strengthening CAH communities and promoting newborn screening to reduce preventable mortality.

Collectively agreed indicators will be used by the @MATES4Kids movement to monitor progress and quantify efforts to deliver sustainable development goals 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.4 by 2030. Together we can improve access to essential NCD medications for children and #LeaveNoChildBehind.

## **22. Collectif des Associations Contre l’Impunité au Togo (C.A.C.I.T.)**

Notre organisation est un réseau de 14 organisations de la société civile togolaise dont l’objectif principal est l’accompagnement juridique, médical et psychosocial, ainsi que des formations en vue de répondre aux besoins des victimes de violations des droits humains. Il contribue au renforcement de l’état de droit, la bonne gouvernance et la démocratie.

La déclaration vise à favoriser la protection et l’élargissement de l’espace civique ; à relever les défis et proposer des solutions innovantes pour la garantie des droits des détenus au Togo.

Depuis la crise socio politique d’août 2017, l’apparition de la pandémie de COVID-19 puis des défis sécuritaires, l’espace civique est mis à rude épreuve. En témoigne, les interdictions de manifestations, l’adoption de textes juridiques restrictifs sur la liberté de manifestation et de réunion et du cadre de vie associative, la suspension et la fermeture de journaux, l’arrestation des journalistes, etc.

S’agissant des conditions de détention, plusieurs défis persistent. Il s’agit de l’insuffisance du budget alloué à l’administration pénitentiaire, des mauvaises conditions de vie des détenus, de la surpopulation carcérale liée à la forte détention préventive, du difficile accès aux soins de santé, des conditions de travail difficile du corps des surveillants de prison et autres fonctionnaires de l’administration pénitentiaire qui ont des conséquences néfastes sur le traitement des détenus.

Depuis la levée de l'interdiction de visites dans les prisons en avril 2022, les visites se font seulement 3 jours par semaine et sont toujours conditionnées du paiement de frais de visite par les familles.

Depuis la survenue de la pandémie, notre organisation contribue aux côtés du gouvernement et d'autres acteurs à apporter des soins aux détenus et prévenir la propagation du virus. Avec l'Organisation Mondiale Contre la torture, elle a aussi déployé une stratégie innovante consistant à l'utilisation des solutions numériques pour faire face aux défis en milieu carcéral.

Pour finir, notre organisation recommande à :

La République Togolaise de :

- Favoriser une meilleure protection et jouissance des libertés et de protection des journalistes ;
- Renforcer les actions pour l'amélioration des conditions de détention et du traitement du personnel de l'administration pénitentiaire.

L'ensemble des États membres des Nations Unies de :

- Renforcer l'utilisation des solutions numériques pour répondre aux défis liés aux conditions de détention.

### **23. Committee of Friends for Humanity**

Objective and Purpose:

The objective and purpose of the application is to provide support to the ECOSOC High Level Segments efforts to accelerate the recovery from Covid-19 and achieve full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Association can offer this assistance through advocacy and awareness-raising, resource mobilization, community support, research and analysis.

Issues as relates to the Theme and work of the Association:

One of the biggest problems slowing elimination of Covid-19 is misinformation on its causes, effects and vaccination. Our work in advocacy and awareness raising can assist in curbing this.

Issue of inability of developing countries to fund treatment and management of covid-19, we can provide assistance by mobilizing resources and supporting local communities.

Covid-19 is a relatively new disease and new information, research and analysis ensures mistakes are corrected, old theories are debunked, there is a steady stream of new discoveries that can go a long way in eliminating Covid.

Way Forward:

The association will engage in advocacy, awareness raising activities to educate the masses on dangers of Covid, preventative, curative measures and the importance of vaccination through campaigns, media including engagement with policymakers at local national and international levels to push policies and actions that support recovery and sustainable development.

Mobilization of resources and partnerships by working with businesses, philanthropists and other organizations to provide funding, technical expertise and other resources. We have long-held expertise in fund raising and have effectively leveraged networks to raise money for various projects, which involved building of skills acquisition centre, hospital emergency centre, hospital wings, orphanages, as well as provided funding to SMEs and women-owned businesses.

Support communities affected by Covid-19 by partnering with local organizations to provide healthcare, education and other services. We have supported communities through medical outreach and can help identify and address unique challenges to ensure that recovery efforts are tailored to local needs.

The Association has previously deployed grassroots research in order to solve the myriad health issues faced by low-income communities in its area of operation. Study of the long-term impact of Covid-19 will provide deeper insight and identify best practices and solutions.

Conclusion:

The Association having Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC can make valuable contributions to issues of critical concern to 2023 ECOSOC High-level Segments through advocacy, resource mobilization, community support, research and analysis. The association can help ensure that recovery efforts are sustainable, equitable and grounded in evidence-based solutions.

### **24. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd**

“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels” is very optimistic, in light of current experiences of worsening poverty, growing inequality, multiple discriminatory practices and human rights violations towards girls and women. The advanced unedited version of the Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet highlights the dire situation while offering hope and a way forward.

The way forward is impacted by existing power dynamics and the dominance of the global financial architecture. If accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) implies continuing to do more of the same, exploit and impoverish people and planet, then the only reasonable outcomes to expect are increasing number of people experiencing multidimensional poverty and a few reaping profits that are unethical and unjust for humanity and the planet.

In the face of gross inequalities, the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity offers a lifeline to local communities in countries where they are present, seeking to address the needs of ‘those impoverished by social injustice who are the most adversely affected by the current ecological, economic, and political crises, particularly girls, women and children.’ We believe that in response to these crises, girls and women should play a leading role in promoting an integral model of development, founded on justice and solidarity. In addressing the ECOSOC High Level Segment, we urge governments to develop and implement policies to uphold basic human rights, with a special focus on the right to human well-being and protection, education, health and security with a focus on the rights of girls and women.

Our organization has been a long-time advocate for right-based national floors of social protection and urge that the priority action of expanding investment in social protection floors as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product in national budgets be implemented. We call for a shift from thinking ‘austerity measures’ to reallocating significant funds towards the well-being of people and planet. The effectiveness of such social protection packages provided during the COVID-19 pandemic did enhance people’s well-being. However, more nor less is needed for accelerating recovery.

If this action could be accompanied by genuine efforts to dismantle power dynamics displayed in aggression, war, inequality, exclusion and gender-based violence and towards the creation and recreation of new global institutions and a global financial architecture that holds dignity, development, human rights, and earth rights at the center - then we would surely be a living and vibrant United Nations of we the people actualizing the aspirations of the Charter.

## **25. Convention of Independent Financial Advisors**

Earlier this year the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, framed the current global situation in dramatic terms, as a “Zeitenwende: an epochal tectonic shift.” His comments were prompted by the Ukraine conflict and the consequences for the European economy and security. The implications of this epochal turning point extends far beyond the conflict in Ukraine because of the interlocking and simultaneous consequences of the Covid pandemic hoax, climate disruptions, global trade disputes, interrupted supply chains and societal upheavals, including anti-democratic shifts to more authoritarian governments, denial of basic human rights and discrimination, as well as widespread displacement of populations. There are some 84 million forcibly displaced people in the world, more than at any time since World War II. They are fleeing a combination of armed conflict, civil unrest, religious conflict, poverty, persecution, local violence and climate activism. Hence, self-determination, security, prosperity and sustainable development all “depend on binding power to common principles, based on the UN Charter.”

Accelerating recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and fully implementing the 2030 Agenda are basic to addressing this tectonic shift. Particularly important is the mobilization of financial resources to support developing countries in their efforts. Particularly important will be focusing on new financial resources to support developing countries. One country has recently participated in this effort by canceling LDCs’ debt in Africa. As an NGO in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, CIFA is a high-level international center in the field of finance, asset management and global financial counselling, able to work with groups, companies and international organizations to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are especially focused on advancing the principles of our Charter, which has as its goal “the definition of the fundamental and inalienable rights of the investor and the unconditional right to ownership and property.” The Charter aims to underline the principles, both straightforward and permanent, of the investor to benefit from a legal framework which preserves private property and comprises goods resulting from the activities, be they personal property or intellectual, of the investor. The Charter attempts to respect the legislation, traditions, and customs of all countries that ratify it.”

Protecting the rights of investors is essential in promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development problems and investment by both public and private institutions and companies. Providing a safe and stable context for investment is essential to resource mobilization.

From our studies and analysis, we conclude that investors and pension funds world-wide are increasingly inclined to seek out socially responsible investment opportunities that can help finance the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda. There is no doubt however that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the world’s developed countries, which have entered a cycle of heavy borrowing, indebtedness, and historical budget deficits.

Our concern is to advise investors and pension funds to invest in activities that are forward looking while not ignoring the new world order that is building up. The 2030 Agenda should acknowledge these changes and adjust its goals accordingly. The UN system has a wide range of policies, programs and activities it seeks to advance, everything from eradicating poverty in developing countries to promoting public health (lessons learned from the COVID debacle), to gender equality, to disarmament, to environmental protection, to education, to decent housing and a host of others, all incorporated into sustainable development goals and the Agenda for 2030.

Currently, many pension funds considered as a potential financing sources for the 2030 Agenda, are now facing very significant actuarial shortfalls, while their main concern is to maximize profits by reducing risky investments. We are unable to forecast whether socially responsible investments could be the right asset able to defend the interests of future retirees considering the tectonic shift hitting the global financial sector. We believe that we are at the beginning of a phase of expropriations within the western world and fear that the principles of ownership and private property are being undermined by an irresponsible political class. In this context, the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions need to reinvent themselves to adjust to a multipolar financial world, where all countries will be subject to the same obligations.

## **26. Diligent Care for Creative Intelligence Development**

We at Diligent Care for Creative Intelligence Development DICIDE is pleased to make our contribution to issues of critical concern to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are aware it will contribute to the discussion of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas targeting the realization of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and facilitate engagement. MATERNAL SKILL EDUCATION A GAME CHANGING ACTION TARGETS UNBORN CHILD SUSTAINABLE WELLBEING AND POTENTIAL Current climate changes, water pollution and challenges show that beyond advocacy more need to be done. It's pleasing to note that Diligent Care for Creative Intelligence Development developed and implemented Smart Maternal Skill Education and its strategies which get women have sustainable healthy newborn considering the threat environment and water pollution has been presenting over the years. The purpose is to eliminate negative impact of these that threaten unborn child well-being and potential. Studies confirm that slow learning and attention issues associated with learning, attitude and behavior had its foundation from under development of unborn child due to disease burden, pollution and negative nurturing. Over the years through seminars and conferences our team has empowered over 15000 direct and indirect beneficiaries. The Maternal Skill Education course is 120 pages and provides skills and strategies which get women have sustainable healthy newborn with fine potential. The strategies were product of evidence based studies in partnership with Bayero University Kano, Nigeria 2003-2008 and supervised by Professor Danjuma Maiwada and his team. The study Theme: Climate and Environmental Factors Affecting Human Wellbeing, Learning and Performance. The finding helped our team author two books: 1, UN SDG Maternal Skill Education, 2. Unborn-Child Development Strategies. Maternal Skill Education, gets prospective mothers play their part in their pregnancy. It is women and unborn children first Human Right, supports developing countries and usher in resource driven next generation, innovators, entrepreneurs and technologists.

Positive Impact: 1. Attainment of United Nations SDG target on child health 2. Result to healthier babies with reassuring APGAR scores in first 1 minute after birth. 3. It provides a foundation for newborn that become next generation, innovative entrepreneurs both in science and technology. 4. It offers skill in preconception preparedness and adaptation resulting to women health throughout pregnancy and fast physiologically recovery from child delivery. 5. It ensure issues associated with ignorance, poverty, disease burden, malaria, extreme heat, malnutrition, limited health care centers and professionals are reduced from negatively affecting unborn child development. 6. It empowers society to reduce drastically funding need for health care. Conclusion: The sustainable potential and performance of citizens require the status of their domains: cognition, psychomotor and affective, which is directly negated by climate change, disease burden, malaria, water, heat stress and environmental pollution. Kindly join us to give vulnerable communities opportunity for better attitude, health and academic performance through strategic early development of unborn child health and potential. Thank You.

## **27. Divine Act Charitable Trust**

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a major setback most countries were saddled with, leaving a trail of lasting damage all over the world. The impact of COVID-19 was felt in all sectors of the economy ranging from agriculture, education, manufacturing, tourism, transportation, and more. Whilst people got infected, some died due to complications, while others recovered from the disease.

Coupled with some underlining factors affecting economic growth in Africa, the pandemic had strong economic impact on the overall affair of this region as it was not easy for policymakers to cope especially with economic and health-related instantaneous decisions. With the increasing rate of recession, it became imperative for everyone to ensure the survival rate of their race, nation, and continent

The COVID-19 pandemic brought in focus the importance of development that ensures equitable economic growth, as well as a sustainable use of natural resources. With over 175 million confirmed cases and over 3.8 million deaths worldwide (WHO, June 2021), governments are funding the protection of incomes and the provision of urgent medical care to citizens. This is much needed, given that, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 305 million full-time jobs would be lost affecting 1.6 billion people in the informal sector. This has been proven to be higher than originally forecasted with equivalent to 495 million full-time jobs lost globally only in the second quarter of the year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 1.5 billion students or 52% of the world's student population are or have been affected by the pandemic. The pandemic also revealed bluntly the huge unmet needs of the most vulnerable people in areas like healthcare, sanitation, water supply, affordable transport, and housing.

The acceleration for recovery of the sustainable world, via the 2030 agenda for sustainable development must become the focus for all concerned and the desire for every continent is to fully actualize these goals. The need for a renewed focus on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was launched by the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030, as the global blueprint to end poverty, protect our planet, and ensure prosperity. Along with inadequate health systems, the pandemic has also exposed a few other challenges such as lack of access to education, failure to reach clean water and sanitation targets, and inadequate food security. These are all development gaps that the SDGs are trying to address. Solutions to meet the goal of healthy lives and well-being for all must be multisectoral and engage multiple actors to accelerate progress. The role of communities, civil society and multi-stakeholder partnerships will be the key in ensuring a focus on equity and strong accountability on the SDGs. Every development stakeholder will need to reassess progress in achieving the SDGs for equitable growth, conservation of natural resources, and action to reduce the impact of climate change.

### **28. Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association**

The coronavirus disease was a catalyser of disruption and led to new habits that resulted in a new reality for the entire population at global level. In a multidimensional world with multiple cross-sectoral challenges and interlinked crises, the post-pandemic recovery is paramount as there is no time to lose.

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society advocated for transformative measures and resilience policies at regional, national and international level, in order to increase the capacity for meaningful impact and to implement a multi-stakeholder partnership for recovery. There is a need of a 360-degree perspective for an inter-disciplinary approach in order to cope with the pandemic effects and to engage in societal resilience.

In our view, the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience - that have been already adopted in many countries across the globe - should represent a driver of change if the following measures/recommendations are taken into account:

- Achieving equity and aspiring to eliminate disparities;
- Determining disaster and climate impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable, and optimizing solutions for resilience;
- Building policies to increase the capacity of adaptation, to design cross-sectoral reforms and to invest in research and innovation;
- Strengthening the relationship between decision and policy makers, civil society and private sector, in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals;



- Ensuring a “whole-of-society” approach to develop and maintain an effective continuity planning across a broad spectrum of emergencies and disasters when normal operations are disrupted.

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association will continue to address the importance of building technical capacity of local governments and mobilising financial resources that will contribute to the acceleration process of the full implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, successful implementation of the SDGs in a post Covid-19 era requires clarity about the priority sectors and development purpose at national level, sufficient funding, extensive engagement with and participation of the all stakeholders, technical competence, institutional capacity and adequate management.

### **29. European Network on Independent living limited**

“Prioritizing Independent Living across the Agenda 2030 for an inclusive recovery”, European Network on Independent living limited (ENIL)

COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on disabled people, due to pre-existing inequalities. Disabled people living in institutions were more likely to be infected and die from COVID-19, and experienced isolation and exclusion. In recent times, inflation and increase in energy prices have further limited access to affordable housing. However, economic recovery efforts have often supported institutionalization instead of independent living initiatives.

Independent living should be a priority of recovery efforts after COVID-19 and the current economic crisis. This would ensure that disabled people are not left behind and are actively included in recovery, and that policies and programmes are in line with the Agenda 2030.

Disabled people are more likely to be in poverty, due to intersecting forms of discrimination, barriers to access inclusive education and employment, and lack of support options such as personal assistance. COVID-19 and the increases in cost of living and energy prices are further exacerbating poverty among disabled people, resulting in institutionalization. This hinders the achievement of the Agenda 2030, and in particular Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4 and 7.

But efforts to improve the situation of disabled people during and after COVID-19 have often been in detriment of their right to independent living. Instead of supporting community-based services and personal assistance, countries have allocated resources towards building and renovating institutions, improving energy efficiency, and hiring staff. The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 10 and 11 should drive reform, by addressing inequalities and building affordable housing where disabled people can live in their communities.

Despite the impact of recovery policies and programmes on disabled people, they are consistently left out of decision-making at all levels. Shrinking spaces for civil society and lack of capacity and resources of Disabled People’s Organizations impede the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17.

Therefore, for an inclusive recovery from COVID-19 that is in line with the Agenda 2030 and that supports Independent Living, we call on governments to end funding of institutions and accelerate funding for independent living, including through international cooperation, by investing in community-based services and individualized support. They must adopt a twin-track approach, with specific efforts to include disabled people while mainstreaming disability through all initiatives.

Furthermore, governments must ensure access to inclusive education and employment for all disabled people, must put in place social protection measures and devolved budgets for personal assistance, so disabled people can receive support on their own terms.

Finally, governments should engage disabled people and their representative organizations in all decision-making, and collect disability-disaggregated data for all relevant SDG indicators.

### **30. Farmers Development Organization (FDO)**

Sustainable Development is Not Possible All Alone ...

Pakistan is a developing country. Being the victim of Covid 19 was the worst time which affected the whole economy at worst. Farmers Development Organization is working since 1998 for the betterment of communities, played a conscious role, and still successfully playing in the recovery process by continuously trying to create an environment full of opportunities for communities by ensuring risk communication and psychosocial support. We are enabling our communities to grasp opportunities by sharing skills for their sustainable growth with an inclusive approach but the drought situation followed by the floods of 2022 due to rapid climate change, unstable political situation, day-by-day increasing inflation, currency devaluation, the decreased balance of payments, low-quality education, hunger, malnutrition, weak governance, influenced democracy, and compromised law and order are making the dream of sustainable growth impossible for countries like Pakistan.

There is a strong relationship between all 17 goals. Focusing on one and ignoring the others will never ensure the sustainable development of developing countries like ours even beyond 2030. Above mentioned macro problems are making the lives of communities a living hell by compromising their basic rights to education, health, standard living are forcing them not to think beyond basic needs.

Recommendations to make the development process sustainable:

For UN Agencies:

As the whole world is going through an economic crisis due to Covid-19 therefore development funds are also decreasing, if the investment is made from the available pool of funds in the '16th goal- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions' it will really bring change at large. It will ease the work of sustainable development as the effective, inclusive, accountable, and transparent institutions will themselves work on all other goals by forming healthy partnerships at the country level and even beyond.

Investment should also be preferably made in goal 4- Quality Education for all as educated people together with stronger institutions will ensure the prosperity of any developing country by coping with arising challenges on their own.

For International Monetary/ Financial Institutions:

International financial institutions should provide loans to the government with predefined conditions so the institutions may not be able to design and impose policies compromising the well-being of people, especially of the masses and the poor by imposing more and more taxes.

As Pakistan's currency is devaluing, it is increasing the principal loan amount and also the interest over it which payment covers most of our annual budget and no budget for development is left with Pakistan usually. Therefore, the payment of interest on principal loan amount should be given waiver and payment of principal amount should be deferred till 2030 so the countries like our can focus more on real time development and can be in position to payback their loans.

For Developed Countries:

Developed countries that have corporate social responsibility (CSR) component should invest in research and development to produce climate-resilient agricultural inputs related to our region and agricultural countries like ours so food and nutrition security can be ensured.

### **31. Federación internacional de empresarias BPW Spain**

If we want accomplish the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, we can't leave our sky outside of the SDG.

85% of the world's population lives under polluted skies. In contrast, more than thirteen hundred million inhabitants on the planet do not have access to electricity.

The advance of light pollution is erasing the stars from our skies, causing the deterioration of a legacy with profound cultural, scientific, environmental and aesthetic repercussions.

Overlighting has become a global phenomenon that affects most towns and cities. The inefficiency in lighting causes an unjustified excess of energy consumption and therefore economic and increases the level of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Light pollution alters habitats, ecosystems, species, alters the biological cycles of plants and affects the relationships, orientation, reproduction and physiology of many animal species. And not only of wildlife, but also of humans, linked to a circadian rhythm of hormones and biological variables dependent on day and night, activity and rest, where an imbalance of these factors directly affects our health, as corroborated by numerous studies by the World Health Organization.

BPW Spain with Fundación Starlight propose the creation of a new SDG to protect the sky,

SDG18 Sky Quality and Starlight Access.

This perception of the sky as a resource to be safeguarded not only for science, but also as a cultural, environmental, biodiversity, health and quality-of-life heritage and as an engine of sustainable economy through star tourism, emanates from the Declaration of La Palma (2007) in "Defense of the Night Sky and the Right to Starlight" and its responsible body the Fundación Starlight. Awareness in the protection of the night sky is awakening from the hand of tourism.

BPW Spain, has always been strongly committed to Agenda 2030. Focused on its fulfillment from a gender perspective so that equality and the empowerment of women and girls becomes a reality. The starry sky is an opportunity for development and empowerment for many women in rural settings that tend to be dramatically depopulated. Women from indigenous and local communities are also often repositories of traditional knowledge, which is critical to ensuring the livelihoods, resilience and culture of their communities.

For this, it is important to promote technological innovation to have intelligent lighting, without wasting energy, compatible with our sense of security, avoid radio electric pollution and regulate the use of outdoor space, making all resources and knowledge available to society. that heaven offers us.

That is why we ask to United Nations to recognize this new SDG, because the sky must be seen as a climate asset for humanity.

<https://ods18.org/en/>

## **32. Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives en Famille**

Sustainability, Families and Care

Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives en Famille (FEFAF) Works for the recognition of unpaid care work, equal rights for caregivers and to highlight the needs of children. The coronavirus has shown us the importance of strong family units. Informal care has been crucial in getting us through the crisis and Covid has highlighted the differences in health and wellbeing outcomes of those from strong and stable families and those from weak and unstable ones.

It is important to build the foundations for families to prosper rather than being economically better off apart. Needs of children The first years of a child's life are critical for brain and emotional development. Maternal care and a positive home environment are the strongest predictors of best outcomes for child development in these years. It is therefore crucial that families are not subjected to poverty when one parent cares for their child at home. Maternal and infant mental health are also affected when economic and social pressures force mothers to return to paid work earlier than they feel ready. Policy should seek to minimize this separation and not as in many cases today encourage it. \*The present statements are issued without formal editing.

Care The caring work, mostly done by women, has economic, social and community value which is not counted and therefore not measured as GDP. Care is critical for the wellbeing of all and we must protect carers from being driven into poverty. We need new 'terms' to define those who do this invisible but valuable unpaid work. These people should be regarded as 'active caregivers' not 'inactive economic units'. The latter is pejorative and implies a lack of work and contribution to the economy and society. Primary caregivers, mostly mothers, play a critical role nurturing infants: they buffer and soothe a child from stress, and regulate babies' physical and emotional wellbeing. Economic and family policy should not separate a child from its mother. Mothers should be free to care for as long as necessary and if the incentive is for women to re-enter the workforce, evidence needs to be available that replacement external paid care is better than maternal/parental care. For the future

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals we need to focus on families and rediscover their importance. Policy should support and strengthen the family unit. Policy on childcare must have the child's developmental needs as central focus rather than increasing women's participation in the labour market. Policy should include choice and support for parents to care at home. Redefine those doing caring work and relieve them from poverty by valuing unpaid care work and raising their status.

### **33. FEMM Foundation**

The FEMM Foundation is a knowledge-based health program for women inspired by women's right to be informed participants in their own healthcare and to make voluntary decisions based on options, information, and understanding. The FEMM Foundation is dedicated to health education, medical research, and improving health care programs targeting reproductive health to advance women's health.

Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic requires a renewed look at women's health care, while also fully implementing the 2030 Agenda. Holistic women's health care which seeks to address women's real health concerns can be aided by leaning on Sustainable Development Goal 9, with its particular emphasis on innovation. Promoting a robust women's health system requires investment and empowerment of women to take charge of their reproductive health. Resilient development fostered through accessible technology strives to support women's well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access to health information.

FEMM has developed a free app to allow women to track their biomarkers and period symptoms each month to better understand their bodies and health. The app provides insights into women's unique menstrual cycles, can flag potential health concerns, and can connect women with medical professionals. Additionally, the information in the app is a tool women can use to make decisions about naturally achieving or avoiding pregnancy.

FEMM's work builds on decades of medical research and employs modern technology to help women advocate for their highest standard of care as poor health can impact personal, social, and economic aspects of people's lives, leaving them isolated even in growing cities. That is why resilient and safe communities are those in which the all-round health needs of their populations are met. It is thereby essential to understand the public's access to health services and information to make informed choices about their health to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11, focused on sustainable cities and communities.

The FEMM Foundation seeks to empower every 21st century woman with the knowledge that ovulation is an essential sign of health. Looking to implement Sustainable Development Goal 17, FEMM is prepared to partner with Member States to bring its accessible educational programs and cutting-edge medical support to women all over the world.

### **34. Fondazione di Ricerca Scientifica ed Umanistica Antonio Meneghetti**

Motivated by the theme of the 2023 HLPF the Antonio Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation organized a virtual Side Event during the 2023 Annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, to promote capacity-building initiatives connected to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievements among young people.

The Side Event organized “Three Erasmus+ projects: “Now I know how!”, “I am able2DO” and, “EQUALS-EU: Gender Equality for Youth leadership globally” to foster entrepreneurship competences and creativity in young people starting from scratch”. These seek to ensure that younger generations are aware of the benefits of SDG implementation through cooperation, to sustain and accelerate action for delivering them. To achieve this, the courses sought to foster young people’s knowledge and ability to enter the job market as protagonists to help in the context where they live, concentrating mainly on the entrepreneurial sphere (and Made in Italy case study), in order to ensure a new economic and entrepreneurial generation, particularly attentive to social issues, to the ethical aspects of work, sustainability, inclusiveness and gender equality. The courses involved more than 100 participants from 20 different countries.

The case study “of Made in Italy” developed following the aftermath of Second World War, as reaction to a situation where the country was destroyed by the Second World War, was presented as a model of “school of life” during the courses. Young participants learned how to recover and enhance their roots and the cultural identity of their territory to develop their “Made in...” based on one of the main characteristics of Made in Italy: the way psychology addresses the problems of their environment.

The three courses mobilize a wide range of multi-stakeholders, in accordance with target 17.6. During the side event, students, teachers, entrepreneurs, public and private sector representatives were involved to increase youth awareness of economic change after the pandemic.

#### **Recommendations:**

Many institutional media outlets do not reach young people. Communicating the importance of economic post-pandemic changes and the 17 SDGs through online platforms used mostly by young peoples can help raise awareness and keep young people close and well-informed.

Replicate Erasmus+ course model as best practice to design diversity-based courses and initiatives with young people from different cultures to prevent prejudice, racism and intolerance.

Create new training models to implement direct experiences for youth with economic and business environments, not only from teacher trainers. This can contribute to bridge the gap that exists between the world of education and the labor market

Foster these Erasmus+ courses to develop a solid system of values that can effectively counter the possible apathy (highly experienced during pandemic, the NEET phenomena) and facilitate their integration into labor market.

### **35. Fondazione Ernesto Illy**

Virtuous Agriculture: a model with a double benefit, for the environment and for human health

The idea of Virtuous Agriculture is based on providing a double benefit: for the environment and for human health. For the environment, through carbon sequestration and reduction of contaminants; for human health, through beneficial and protective products against non-

communicable/non-food diseases. Today it is clear that there is a direct correlation between these aspects.

Agriculture contributes significantly to climate change but is also strongly influenced by its effects. It is the main reason for deforestation and change in land use, which disrupt the biogeochemical cycles responsible for maintaining living conditions on our planet.

Food production on demand requires food systems made sustainable through adaptation strategies and practices, ensuring sufficient productivity under normal conditions of resilience to the effects of climate change.

Food availability is based on soils: nutritious and good quality food and animal fodder can only be produced if the soils are healthy. Soil is the second largest carbon sink after the oceans: enriching agricultural soil with organic carbon is an effective way to sequester greenhouse gases and increase soil quality, indirectly improving biodiversity, fertility, water retention and reducing dependence on agrochemicals.

Soil with organic carbon enrichment is the route to both adaptation and mitigation. Thanks to soil enrichment with organic carbon, healthy soils are not contaminated and therefore do not contaminate the food they produce. This is already a health benefit, although the most important is related to soil microbiology. Soil health is derived from its biodiversity, and more biodiversity means more microorganisms and more phytochemicals with potential benefits for human health.

With the aim of combating the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the Fondazione Ernesto Illy is committed to supporting research on the use of bacterial colonies active in the rhizosphere of coffee plants in collaboration with the International Centre For Genetic Engineering And Biotechnology, an associated institute of The United Nations Economic and Social Council and its spinoff. This research aims to replace chemical fertilization with the inoculation of selected bacteria able to provide the plant with nitrogen and trace element supplements in the long term, the first tests are providing useful indications and promise a sensitive result that gives us hope for a healthier future for the ecosystem and for the health of coffee plants.

An exponential increase investment in microbiota research also in terms of lifestyle - will strengthen the relationship between soil and human health. Although it is still known to be indirect, because no microorganism living in soil and plant is normally found in the human microbiota, pioneering studies suggest the hypothesis that some endophytes colonize the human gut.

### **36. Fundação Antonio Meneghetti**

Working together in order to accelerate the recovery towards the 2030 Agenda, by Fundação Antonio Meneghetti (FAM, Brazil)

In order to accelerate the recovery from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels we have been working to make children and youth from our region develop communication and sociability skills. We are located in the countryside of the Southernmost state of Brazil, in a region named Recanto Maestro. Here we work prioritly with projects focusing on education and the SDG 4 is our main goal, eventhough, the other 16 SDGs are all also touched by education. The experience acquired by acting in the network of public schools of 12 cities and by working with the more than 4 thousand young students that participate in our 32 projects show that this generation suffered a lot in what regards their capability to express themselves and to acquire knowledge in a presential way. Through means of innovative pedagogical methodology combined with the principles of ontopsychological pedagogy we have been working to develop hard and soft skills, and also self skills of students and teachers, trying to reach a fast recovery. Our methodology is always allied to practical activities in different areas of interest. In partnership with the college Antonio Meneghetti Faculdade, we offer educational free projects for the community such as: a youth orchestra, a literacy project, a soccer program, a technology literacy program, an

environmental education program, a project to develop entrepreneurship skills, a project to foster international interchange, a project to develop work skills for the agricultural area (such as flowers, fruits and vegetables production), a project to recover the structure of the public schools of the region, a program to develop teachers capability to teach for this new generation of students that have lived through the pandemic days. We realize that nowadays our challenge is to develop the capability of these students to communicate their feelings, to be able to work together with other students, to believe that a better future will not include an isolation period again if we are able to take care of our planet. The way forward, for us, can be based on the development of students through an education for a global citizenship. We can reach the 2030 Agenda by educating young people to become leaders for a sustainable future for all.

### **37. Geology for Global Development**

Earth Science is Critical to the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

With a focus on ‘leaving no one behind’, Geology for Global Development works to build a sustainable future for all by transforming understanding of, access to, and capacity to use the Earth science required to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Efforts to protect, conserve, and restore the natural environment are key to achieving many of the SDG targets. Understanding of the Earth’s structure, processes, and resources, and how life of all kinds interacts with Earth systems can help to provide essential services, the development of sustainable and resilient cities and infrastructure, and effective protection of environmental systems. We therefore applaud the creation of an International Geodiversity Day to raise awareness of the role of Earth science knowledge in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have supported detailed analysis of the role of Earth science in this agenda ([doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-38815-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-38815-7)) and offer two reflections relevant to the 2023 priority theme:

First, understanding the natural environment should be at the centre of education for sustainable development. Tackling poverty and increasing well-being requires access to basic services, including clean water and sanitation, and natural resources (SDG 1.4), and increased resilience to environmental shocks (SDG 1.5). Improved public understanding of the dynamics of environmental systems and planetary boundaries can help to encourage appropriate actions, at all levels, to deliver these objectives and secure a sustainable future. This requires commitments to support and strengthen those institutions tasked with environmental data collection, management, integration, analysis, and access (e.g., national geological surveys, hazard monitoring agencies, ministries of water), to ensure they are effective, accountable, and transparent (SDG 16.6), with public access to relevant information (SDG 16.10).

Second, understanding the Earth science contributions required to deliver the SDGs in national contexts is needed to identify and bridge any training gaps. Global commitments to ending poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), enhancing human well-being (SDG 3) and building resilience (SDGs 1, 9, 11) require Earth scientists with specialised training in (for example), hydrogeology, geochemistry, soil science, engineering geology, and renewable energy technologies. A lack of appropriate expertise will hinder the implementation of the SDGs. Member states need to systematically understand the required contributions from Earth scientists to national SDG implementation programmes. This will inform analysis of training gaps and the interventions required to strengthen the workforce.

### **38. Graduate Women International (GWI)**

Graduate Women International (GWI) urges Member States to apply a systems lens to priorities and policies to push progress and achieve the 2030 Agenda

When the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020, few could have foreseen the catastrophic effects the virus would have on the education of the world's children. In fact, UNESCO has projected that up to 11 million girls may never return to school.

During the first 12 months of the pandemic, lockdowns led to 1.5 billion students in 188 countries being unable to attend school in person. As a 2021 OECD report into the effects of school closure put it: "Few groups were less vulnerable to the coronavirus than school children, but few groups have been more affected by the policy responses to contain the virus." As late as March 2022, UNICEF reported that 23 countries, home to around 405 million schoolchildren, had not yet fully reopened their schools.

COVID-19 highlighted the stark inequalities that exist both across and within countries, with millions of students unable to receive instruction due to a lack of access to connectivity. Post-pandemic the world is facing prolonged education challenges including, but not limited to, addressing learning losses, training teachers for effective digital teaching, managing hybrid learning environments, and ameliorating mental health issues caused by prolonged isolation.

All aspects of the global community - governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations - must come together to 'build back better' in order to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. To get back on track, GWI urges Member States to take the following action:

- Place education (SDG4) at the heart of all recovery efforts and funding allocations.
- Member States must apply a systems lens to priorities and policies to significantly push progress and achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- Create partnerships between government, the private sector, and NGOs to invest in both school and digital infrastructure.
- Provide sustainable, equitable, gender-responsive, quality, inclusive education by ending underinvestment in education in all countries.
- Provide educational opportunities to pregnant adolescents and single mothers to enable them to continue/complete their education thereby disrupting the feminization of poverty due to a lack of education and work-related skills.
- Provide catch-up literacy and numeracy instruction for all students, with a particular emphasis on those most vulnerable and marginalized.
- Reinstate field data collection operations disrupted during the pandemic and require disaggregated and intersectional data using both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Fund data collection to adequately capture the success of policies, determine where resources are needed, and plan future endeavors.
- Incorporate climate change, civics, and socioemotional skills in all curriculums.
- Enhance teacher wellbeing through adequate pay, decent working conditions, and a voice in curriculum design

### **39. Healthy Start Initiative**

#### **SDG 4.2: CALL FOR ACCELERATED ACTION**

Early childhood development in the first five years of life is the foundation for a nation's human and economic development. The World Social Report 2023 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has established that people are now living longer, and more people are older than ever before, and that early childhood development provides the foundation for better health and prosperity in old age. Access to high quality education from school age is critical to lifetime economic wellbeing and healthy ageing.

One of the 169 targets agreed under the SDGs specifically mandates early childhood development for all children under 5 years with a view to preparing them for equitable and inclusive quality education by 2030. The SDGs also require that those who are most vulnerable and marginalized and are at greater risk of being left behind, such as children with disabilities, are given due and priority consideration.



Approximately 240 million children and adolescents are estimated to have moderate-to-severe disabilities globally; and about 50 million children younger than 5 years have mild-to-severe disabilities requiring some form of intervention. Compared with children without disabilities, disabled children are more likely to have substantially poorer foundational reading and numeracy skills, more likely to have never attended school, or drop out of primary school. Without access to inclusive quality education, disabled children are also less likely to secure gainful employment and to have expectations of a better life.

However, midway into the SDGs, a practical and comprehensive global action plan to guide Member States in implementing appropriate country-level early childhood development programmes as envisioned under the SDGs does not exist. The only global initiative on early childhood development jointly promoted by WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank - the Nurturing Care Framework - focuses on mothers and their children from conception to age 2-3 years and is not designed to promote school readiness for inclusive education for children with disabilities. The framework is also likely to divert the attention of Member States away from their obligations under SDG 4.2. This would result in disabled children under 5 years, especially in developing countries, being left behind and the commitment under the SDGs unfulfilled by 2030.

### PRAYER:

We urge the leadership of UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and World Bank under the auspices of the Office of the UN Secretary General to urgently:

1. set up a High-level Interagency Task Force to develop a global action plan on early intervention services explicitly geared toward school readiness for all children under 5 years with disabilities and other disadvantaged children as envisioned by SDG 4.2.
2. establish performance benchmarks and milestones for monitoring progress bi-annually till 2030 specifically for all children under 5 years with disabilities.

### **40. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate**

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate works in over 42 countries to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with local communities and over 200,000 students worldwide.

We are at a critical point in the Agenda 2030 process. We have lost momentum. We need to act now, or we will not achieve the SDGs. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, the world lost about four years of progress made on the alleviation of poverty, with an additional 93 million people experiencing extreme poverty (2020) due to the covid-19 pandemic. Other pandemic impacts include lost access to education, reduced access to healthcare services, and increased numbers of deaths from malaria and tuberculosis.

Accelerated action is essential to achieve targets lacking progress and reverse those that are in decline. While data collection has improved somewhat, there remain significant data gaps, and fully comparable data at an international level is only available for 8 of the 17 SDGs. We cannot achieve what we do not measure.

Certain populations are at greater risk of being left behind. Women, in particular, experienced greater burden because of the pandemic, with jobs lost, increased incidence of domestic violence, and labour in unpaid care.

Gender equality is essential to achieving the SDGs. We must ensure women and girls' human rights. Yet as UN Women reports, gender disparities are worsening. Without investment, achieving gender equality will take another 300 years. Girls from all economic, geographic, racial, ethnic and ability backgrounds need equal access to quality education, including digital and financial literacy, and safe spaces to learn, for their economic independence.

To regain and accelerate progress on the SDGs, the international community must generate the necessary political will and raise the required funds. We urge the international community to immediately:

Re-orient domestic investments to prioritize achievement of the SDGs by 2030, and re-gain progress lost to the covid-19 pandemic.

Set concrete plans for achieving the SDGs. With 7 years remaining, action is essential for success. Multi-stakeholder engagement is crucial. All sectors of society must work together to make sure these final 7 years count.

Commit to global financing for the SDGs. Governments must fulfil their long overdue promise of Official Development Assistance target of 0.7% of Gross National Income.

Cover the SDG funding shortfall of LIDCs. Advanced economies should contribute a combined 0.9% of their GDP (\$300 - \$400 billion per year) to help achieve the SDGs in LIDCs, which comprise 1.7 billion people.

We are halfway to 2030. We know what we need to do. We demand bold action and financing to make the achievement of the SDGs a reality. The fate of our planet is at stake.

### **41. Instituto Alana**

Recovering from the coronavirus pandemic and fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires recognition of the multiple impacts of the pandemic on children's rights. Alana Institute, a Brazilian-based global organization dedicated to honoring children's rights, conducted research to develop a diagnosis highlighting the pandemic's impacts on children's rights in Brazil. The results demonstrate systematic violations of rights against this population.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is crucial to recognize the violations of rights that occurred during COVID-19, caused by the Brazilian government's inefficient management in areas such as healthcare, food and education. The lack of support for online classes and the increase in the number of orphaned children and deaths due to the lack of vaccines has only added to the problem. This recognition is essential to develop an appropriate recovery project.

The pandemic exposed the deep inequalities in Brazilian society, affecting different groups in various ways based on race, economic status, and social inequality. Children with disabilities, indigenous children and from traditional communities, children in street situations, institutionalized children, and those deprived of their liberty, are particularly vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of the virus and its economic and social consequences.

A survey indicates that despite the indigenous population representing only 0.5% of Brazil's total population, 4.4% of children who died from COVID-19 were indigenous. Black children were also disproportionately affected, with higher rates of lethality and loss of parents or caregivers. Even before the pandemic, black households were most affected by food insecurity, as 74% of families experiencing severe food insecurity had a black person as the reference, according to research by Inesc.

Effective and efficient public policies are crucial for protecting the health of children during COVID-19 recovery. States, the business sector, and society must create strategies to address the challenges faced by children and their families to reduce the pandemic's impact on their rights. Policies must be adopted to guarantee children's rights, including the following dimensions: fully implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child; strengthen public health policies to provide priority access for children and ensure their best interests are considered; developing and implementing public policies to reduce inequalities and address the specific vulnerabilities of marginalized groups; recognizing the right to the highest attainable standard of health and

facilities for treatment and rehabilitation as set out in the CRC General Comment No 15; prioritizing the best interests of the child in implementing recovery strategies; and implementing a multidimensional strategy to combat hunger and food insecurity, raising the agenda as a political priority, strengthening adequate and nutritious school meals, and funding research that explores the reality of orphanhood caused by the pandemic.

#### **42. International Association of Justice Watch**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dear ECOSOC Members and Stakeholders,

Thank you for this opportunity you provided for the International Association of Justice Watch. All countries have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and now accelerating recovery from the pandemic especially economic recovery is a priority. Efforts to accelerate economic recovery are hampered by the unfair and illegal sanctions imposed on some countries such as Iran, Yemen, and Syria. The most severe unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) imposed by the U.S. as well as secondary sanctions and over-compliance have exacerbated the situation for ordinary citizens, particularly for women and children of Iran. These inhumane sanctions block the inter-bank transactions system (SWIFT), meaningfully restrict Iranians' access to medicine and pharmaceutical purchases, and drastically suppress opportunities for women. Sanctions have also significantly limited Iranian women's share in the global knowledge production.

Sanctions coupled with other conditions such as pandemics significantly intensify and increase challenges women face in their struggle for more equal rights, in Iran as well as other countries where UCMs and warmongering have plagued nations, such as Syria and Yemen. While regional and global collaborations are required for the better implementation of sustainable development goals, the imposition of UCMS, and double standards exercised by the international organizations exacerbate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 and hinder the implementation of SDGs at all levels.

The recent removal of Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women is an example of undermining multilateralism and international collaboration to enhance women's rights and implement SDGs. This political move by a UN body against its constitution sets a precedent for exclusionary multilateralism while multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, and experience is vital for overall success of SDGs.

Thus to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 especially in the fields of health, education and reduction of inequality, the trend of politicizing issues by the international organizations should be reversed and move toward further inclusion and collaboration. In addition, the continuation of UCMs is a great obstacle in the way of SDG achievement and implementation. Hence, it is expected of UN bodies to fight against UCMs so that the full implementation of SDGs could be achieved.

#### **43. International Council of Management Consulting Institutes, Inc.**

The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes is the only global organization representing the management consulting profession. Founded in 1987, it has 48 member institutes and is present in more than 70 countries. It develops and promotes a competence framework and code of ethics for the profession. The Certified Management Consultant designation provides a globally acknowledged award. It has been leading in developing the ISO 20700 Standard (Management Consulting Services).

“Management consultants use their know-how to support clients in any sector locally, regionally and globally to deal with important issues such as handling complexity, achieving sustainable organizational growth, innovating, achieving change and enhancing productivity. The management consultancy industry makes a substantial contribution to the world economy.” (ISO 20700, Introduction)

To do that efficiently, management consultants need an environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and economic growth.

Management consulting is a strong and growing profession, influenced by national Gross Domestic Product size, shifts to e-Government practices, global creativity, innovation, and the degree of cultural individualism. The industry is estimated to contribute 0.28% to the World's GDP. As such, it is well-placed to support nations and businesses in accelerating recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Competent management consultants following robust processes and working under a rigorous code of professional ethical behaviour can provide sustainable value in leading the development of private and public organisations in recovering from COVID-19 effects and progressing towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

We believe that expansion of indigenous competent consultants in developing countries will help them achieve sustainable development. Indigenous consultants with competence equivalent to expatriate experts but with advantage of local culture will provide advice and help that is relevant and achievable. Our mission to develop national professional bodies is a positive contribution to assist performance improvement of development projects and build capacity in developing economies.

Management Consulting is an unregulated profession which has led to some well publicized issues with misguided advice that has resulted in damage to our reputation and client mistrust. We provide an effective system of self-regulation. It is the only international body in our profession that can provide self-regulation with independent certification, and assurance of professional ethical behaviour through our Code of Conduct and application of ISO20700.

ICMCI seeks support in its vision for adoption of its standards by individual and corporate members of the profession, and in its mission to grow its network of national management consulting institutes.

#### **44. International Federation for Family Development**

The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) is a non-governmental, independent and non-profit umbrella organization that operates in 68 countries with the help of thousands of volunteers and benefits over 30,000 families annually through 800 parenting courses in 200 cities and regions. Our Federation's programs are based on a participative case-study methodology to help parents to improve their relationships and develop their child-rearing skills. Our Federation also promotes a family-friendly perspective in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies worldwide.

The Agenda 2030 called to fulfill different SDGs that call to invest in various domains of human reality. We believe that implementing family-oriented policies in cities is a crucial means to achieve several SDGs. Indeed half of the world's population lives nowadays in cities, which brings more and more challenges to make them sustainable and inclusive areas. Moreover, the reality of families gathers in itself various situations from members, grandparents, mothers, fathers, single mothers, children with disabilities, etc. Therefore a family holistic approach, targeting the strengths and vulnerabilities of families, allows a cost-effective achievement of many SDGs.

#### **Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families Project**

The Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families project started in 2017 with the intent to invest in the local strengths, improve the daily life in cities of families and increase the cooperation between the private and public sectors. It has been designed in collaboration with urban planners, elected government officials, social policy experts, academics and civil society representatives in coordination with UN-DESA and UN-HABITAT.

In this regard, our Federation added the family perspective for the better achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Urban Agenda to promote the Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families project. The project's main goal and claims are contained in the Venice Declaration. The Declaration is the way regional and local government officials can materialize their public accession to the project and show their commitment to making urban settlements a better place for families through the promotion of a family perspective in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies in urban areas.

The project has proven to be an effective and concrete way to canalize the support of regions and cities to the achievement of the SDGs. Today 234 territories including 96 cities and regions from Mexico, Italy, Poland, Austria, and Brazil have joined the Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families project.

The project's dissemination in some regions is done by Delegates who have a better knowledge of the political, social and economic context of urban settlements. For instance, the Instituto de Análisis de Política Familiar in Mexico, Family Talk in Brazil and the European Local Inclusion and Social Action Network (ELISAN) are key stakeholders in coordinating the development of the project worldwide.

Signatories of the Venice Declaration are entitled to actively participate in the various activities oriented to develop family-friendly territories. The capacity-building of urban high-level representatives, urban development technicians and academic partners is the best strategy to consolidate the project for the future.

Observance of the World Cities Day. October. Opportunity for the High-Level representatives of the Venice Declaration Signatories to pledge support and engage with the UN System. The participants are high-level representatives of the Venice Declaration that share progress in family-friendly policies in their territories and welcome the recent Signatories. The outcome of World Cities Day includes policy recommendations to better engage with the UN System, to better achieve the goals of the Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Annual Technical Meeting. April-May. Opportunity for the Venice Declaration Signatories to present good practices and policy development according to their competencies to support the family unit in their territories. The participants are urban area technicians that design, implement and evaluate policies with a family perspective as an effective way to better achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and follow-up on the Urban Agenda. The outcome of the Annual Technical Meeting includes policy recommendations and highlights good practices for all the Venice Declaration Signatories. It is also a key capacity-building instrument to make progress on the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families project.

Working Group on Food and Energy Security. Initiative among signatories to identify the most pressing challenges for territories on various issues related to energy and food.

Updated Version of the Venice Declaration: Post-Pandemic and towards 2030

In order to accelerate the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development various initiatives have been promoted in order to keep the Venice Declaration adapted to reality.

These past years have brought many shifts in the daily life of families. The impact of the pandemic, the war and food insecurity raise new challenges for cities and their dwellers, especially for families. For this reason, the International Federation for Family Development, in partnership with the Regional Council of the Veneto Region, the Municipality of Marseille and the European Local Inclusion and Social Action Network (ELISAN) has updated the Venice Declaration.

Taking into account the lessons learned these past four years, they promote it as a means for regions, territories and cities to achieve sustainable and inclusive cities, with a family perspective to benefit each and every one of the members of the family. Within a family, all the social realities inhabited by cities and territories are welcomed, so that a family approach will contribute to promote values of belonging and result in a greater attachment to the environment where it is inhabited.

In the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 11 ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'), and the New Urban Agenda, the 'Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families' project is directed to cities and regions that wish to actively contribute to goal SDG 11 to be inclusive of sustainable families by being responsive to their needs.

The commitment of their members consists on presenting once a year a report about the results of their work on the following points:

1. **HOUSING.** Urban settlements should consider all family situations and social groups, flexible and healthy urban planning, environmental impact assessment and financial assistance in building sustainable and resilient buildings, with special attention to demographic shifts and trends.

2. **NEW TECHNOLOGIES.** The need to connect people through new technologies should enable the expansion of infrastructure, promote equal access and upgrade technology and connectivity meant for all family members in the urban area to ensure social inclusion, while reducing the digital gap among generations through the skill-building of older persons, professional carers and families in vulnerable situations, and highlight the role of collective telecare based on monitoring.

3. **EDUCATION.** The quality, access and affordability of childcare facilities should be improved in locations close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education programs, intergenerational meeting places for cultural activities, participation of older persons in educational activities, youth skill-building initiatives and wider opportunities for social integration.

4. **HEALTHCARE.** The importance of promoting healthy habits and lifestyles, especially those targeted to prevent mental disorders and to meet the needs of older persons, also through parenting education, setting the necessary structure to stimulate innovation and intergenerational relations in hospitals as well as medical attention of visitors and tourists.

5. **SAFETY.** Create a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, legal assistance, community police, the use of technology, information, confidentiality of sensitive data, personal patrimonial safety, and training on crises.

6. **ENVIRONMENT.** Allocation of resources for energy transition strategies, more green areas, developing technologies to reduce carbon footprint, better tax benefits for climate actions, a progressive reduction of pollution generated by public transportation and stimulus for the use of it, the increase of charging points for electric cars and the support for a circular economy perspective.

7. **TRANSPORTATION.** Procure a rational, accessible, safe and energy-efficient public transportation system, while promoting strategies to reduce unnecessary use of other uses of transportation such as teleworking, flexible working arrangements and time at home.

8. **AFFORDABILITY.** Plan to facilitate access to services and benefits to families, especially those in vulnerable situations, including youth, persons with disabilities and older persons; design strategies to secure the value of the urban area through adequate benefits and tackling

homelessness; develop smart intergenerational living arrangements with shared services, efficient energy-saving, flexible buildings and care provisions.

9. LEISURE AND TOURISM. Fostering active engagement in the volunteering sector to preserve, promote and restore the cultural heritage of the city for the wellbeing of the family; facilitate access to cultural and sports activities for all family members and their needs through shared experiences, special prices, ad-hoc exhibitions and locations for museums, theaters, etc.,

10. FAMILIES IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS. Establish specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the basic needs of families in vulnerable situations, especially those at risk of social exclusion, due to their structure such as single-parent families, large families and migrant families, by using adequate tools to evaluate the vulnerability of families.

#### **45. International Institute for Human Rights Environment and Development**

Human Rights and Pandemic Height: Recuperation with Resilience International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED International) The key purpose of the statement is to amplify the post-pandemic issues of critical concern being faced by the most marginalized section of the society from rights-based perspective. The high vulnerability of populations to COVID 19 and their susceptibility to experience severe socio-economic impacts, necessitate that their needs are identified and addressed in the prevention, response and recovery efforts. If not, this could result in a failure to contain the virus's transmission, mitigate the outbreak's impacts and ensure a resilient recovery. Those already excluded and facing discrimination by conflicts or disasters are especially vulnerable because they have faced higher risks of being impacted by the pandemic, who have difficulty accessing social protection and are suffering from its adversarial impact. People below poverty line are the hardest hit and are unsuccessfully trying to recuperate from the onset of the pandemic with limited access to resources. Countries are likely to fall into recession and economies are shrinking with reduced government revenues severely hampering attainment of the SDGs. The economic damage unleashed by the crisis is significant for all countries: least developed, middle-income and developed alike. The current situation requires a debt standstill, especially for highly indebted and poorer middle-income countries, as they do not have the resources to cope with the tragedy in which poorest of the poor are the hardest-hit. While in many countries institutional arrangements for cooperation are not effectively tailored to pro-poor SDGs attainment to address immediate, more practical and versatile responses to the pandemic, global emergency funding mechanisms too are yet to offer a concrete expression to ease the shock. The lessons learned from the pandemic is that governments should liberally increase investments in public health and social protection systems. Forging global and regional partnerships with coordinated policies is vital to accelerate, upscale, harmonize and mobilize actions and investments to deal with gaps in health and social protection systems effectively and expeditiously. Digital connectivity has to serve as a lifeline and needs proportionately scaled up approach especially aiming the most disadvantaged, displaced and vulnerable groups. Investment in countries-in conflict especially to least developed countries should be on SDGs-focused development to halt further marginalization by ensuring debt sustainability, particularly for those who are already at high or increasing risk of external debt distress and monetary stability to implement the SDGs. Domestic efforts to avoid the negative economic effects of the crisis need to be complemented by robust international support, including through Official Development Assistance. Since the crisis generated by the pandemic also represents an opportunity to strengthen new normative frameworks to deal with the associated risks and strengthen resilience, adoption of innovative programs for economic recovery expedited through private public partnership is the key to attain 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to genuinely serve the spirit of the 'whole of society approach' and the notion of 'no one is left behind'.

#### **46. International Mayor Communication Centre Limited**

Giving play to the power of youth to promote Sustainable Development Goals

On May 6, 2022, we, International Mayor Communication Centre Limited (also known as the International Mayors Communication Centre), hosted the parallel theme forum “Quality Education” of the United Nations’ seventh Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We organized some young people from various universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and entrepreneurial teams, together with a vocational school in Shenzhen, China, to focus on how to revitalize rural areas and eradicate poverty through vocational education, science and technology, and green development concepts. We organized and attracted 620,000 people to participate in the online conference, achieving the expected promotion goals, and enabling Chinese young students to have a clearer understanding and experience of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Shenzhen is the city that has undertaken the heaviest task and done the best job in China in implementing the first Sustainable Development Goal, “No Poverty,” helping 90 counties and cities. Starting from March 2023, we have worked with the Rural Revitalization and Cooperation and Exchange Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality to call on graduates from various colleges and universities and young urban entrepreneurs in Shenzhen to bring sustainable development concepts and technology projects to rural areas and start their business, accelerate the construction of rural public systems such as schools and hospitals, and promote low-carbon lifestyles, so as to increase the wealth and income of rural populations, achieve the goal of poverty eradication in the end, and overcome the impact of COVID-19 to restore economic prosperity.

Since June 2018, we have published articles in both Chinese and English on our official website and WeChat official account once a week to promote the Sustainable Development Goals to Chinese local governments, enterprises, NGOs, and young students. Good results were achieved by publicizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals one by one. Then, we have been publicizing the 169 targets under those goals. In each issue, we list a total of four cases in China and abroad, serving as a window for showcasing sustainable development demonstration cases and a medium for connecting young people. As of April 2023, our WeChat account has published more than 300 articles to promote the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let’s use the power of youth to create a more beautiful future for the world!

### **47. International Psychoanalytical Association Trust**

“Reversing the regressive economic effects of COVID-19 on women”

International Psychoanalytical Association Trust (IPA)

The objective of this statement is to highlight the negative effects of COVID-19 on working mothers. Specifically, due to increased childcare demands when schools and daycares closed during global quarantines, more women than men were forced to drop out of the workforce. The purpose of highlighting this trend is to illustrate the ongoing unequal division of domestic labor between men and women. Inclusive, sustainable industrialization (SDG 9.2) cannot be achieved without addressing this gap in unpaid care work.

COVID-19 exposed the limits of paid, outsourced care-work to support working mothers. Women generally earn less than men; as a result, when childcare became unavailable during quarantine, economic pressures often resulted in families choosing to sacrifice maternal employment (Lambert A. “Socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on mothers working in France” *Front. Sociol.* 17 Dec. 2021).

If mothers did not leave employment, then they suffered high rates of anxiety and depression during COVID-19 due to shouldering disproportionate burdens of virtual schooling, childcare and employment vulnerability( Kirwin MA. “Working mothers during COVID-19: a cross-sectional study on mental health status and associations with the receipt of unemployment benefits”. *BMC Public Health.* 2022; 22:435).



These phenomena are directly related to the ongoing devaluation of female labor in general – mothers do not get paid to care for their own families, nor are they paid equally as men in formal labor markets (Jain S and Zarghamee H. “Invisible women: a psychoeconomic exploration of domestic and female labor”. *Int J Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*. March 2023). Furthermore, social attitudes implicate women in the provision of domestic labor more so than men – this unconsciously incentivizes a gender-based pay gap as a barrier to women working outside of the home.

From its inception, psychoanalysis has considered unconscious dynamics at play in the world (Freud S. (1930) *Civilization and Its Discontents*. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud 21:57-146) as well as within the individual. We suggest correcting this unconscious economic bias towards devalued female labor through policies that 1) encourage and support male domestic labor and caregiving and 2) provide universal compensation to families with children and elderly members requiring adult supervision.

### **48. International Public Relations Association (IPRA)**

#### Introduction

The International Public Relations Association (IPRA), established in 1955, is the leading global network for PR professionals in their personal capacity. IPRA has been a recognized NGO in consultative status on roster A1 with ECOSOC since 1984. IPRA assists with UN DGC events.

IPRA applauds the theme of the 2023 session: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.” In this statement IPRA lays out three of its actions that helped with COVID-19 recovery, and Sustainable Development. We conclude with a policy recommendation for the UN.

#### Three actions that raised awareness of COVID-19 recovery and the SDGs

1. IPRA organises the annual Golden World Awards recognizing excellence in public relations practice worldwide. Started in 1990 in partnership with the then UN DPI, IPRA put together an award for PR programmes that address UN issues. This prize is now known as the IPRA Global Contribution Award – in support of UN sustainable development goals. Recent recipients have excelled in communication programmes that have a focus on COVID-19 recovery, Climate Change and other SDGs such as vulnerable infrastructure.

2. IPRA organises free monthly Thought Leadership Webinars. Attendance from Africa and Asia is notable. The webinars have discussed communication challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and issues around Climate Change.

3. In 2023, IPRA launched the Climate Change Communication Guidelines. These guidelines take articles of the IPRA ethical code of conduct and interpret implementation with respect to climate change communication. For example, under the article to ensure truth and accuracy the guidelines urge reference to science-based sources in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.ipra.org/member-services/climate-guidelines/>

/continued

IPRA recommends the adoption and further dissemination of this modified set of Climate Change Communication Guidelines by ECOSOC and other bodies within the UN system.

All those who wish to communicate on climate change should:

1. act with honesty and integrity by
  - o ensuring honesty in climate-related communications
  - o translating the science into communication that can be understood in the public arena
2. establish the moral conditions for dialogue by
  - o fostering an internal culture in which all parties feel safe to voice concerns
  - o promoting climate education in the public arena
3. be open and transparent by
  - o reporting on their own organization's emissions and reductions pathway
4. avoid misunderstandings by
  - o ensuring that work is in line with the UN's sustainable development goals
  - o advising management about societal expectations
5. ensure truth and accuracy by
  - o encouraging reference to science-based sources in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
  - o calling-out inaccurate communication in the public arena
6. not disseminate misleading information by
  - o preventing greenwashing in communication by referencing science-based data.

[www.ipra.org](http://www.ipra.org)

### **49. International Shinto Foundation (ISF)**

As recovery from the Corona disaster is underway, one of the world's top priorities to accelerate and fully implement SDGs would be the promotion of impact-weighted accounting as the global standard. Although the SDGs are being implemented in various fields at every level, we need an international standard measurement index to serve as the critical basis for implementing them.

Impact-weighted accounting, in which the "impact" of corporate activities on the environment and society is converted into monetary values and disclosed in conjunction with conventional financial accounting, is beginning to spread, especially among global companies.

The characteristic feature of impact-weighted accounting is that the "impact" of corporate activities on the global environment and society (significant positive or negative changes for people and the earth), which has been placed outside the framework of conventional financial accounting, is estimated as a monetary value and disclosed as quantitative supplementary information on the income statement and balance sheet. Impact-weighted accounting is a catalyst for increasing the viability of "impact investing," in which investment decisions are made on the three axes of risk/return/impact, and it has the potential to shift the paradigm of corporate decision-making.

For example, corporate expenditures to reduce climate change risks will not be "expenses" or "donations." Still, they will be converted into money as a positive contribution to social capital

and recorded as a new type of comprehensive income in impact-weighted accounting. Likewise, initiatives and expenditures for human resource development, a rewarding work environment, and gender equality will be converted into monetary values to contribute positively to social capital.

Under the traditional financial accounting framework, expenditures for human resource development and gender pay gap reduction are recognized as expenses or long-term investments (or off-balance-sheet intellectual assets) to enhance corporate brand and organizational strength. But, the integrated income statement (integrated p/c) with impact-weighted accounting immediately recognizes them as positive items.

This is why the incentive effect of impact-weighted accounting on corporate decision-making can be so significant.

In a world where financial accounting with integrated environmental and social impact weighting has become the new standard for disclosure, the contrasting structures and conflicts, such as "Should I wire financial gains" or "Should I wire ECG promotion" and "I know ECG is important, but the cost I invested in it (will not) all be returned," will disappear.

People can change their behavior simply by having their results visible and counted. Everyone desires to make their results as great as possible, and one will be happy when one's efforts bear fruit and are recognized as excellent results. This, in turn, will motivate them to make the next effort. Therefore, weighted accounting will work as a great power to encourage organizations to contribute to the environment, society, and the sustainable happiness of people more than anything else.

As we are about to make a fresh start post-Corona, we should do everything we can to approve, enforce, understand, and disseminate impact-weighted accounting, which is critical to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

## **50. International Society of Nephrology (ISN)**

While the world must indeed focus on the prevention and treatment of infections, the pandemic has highlighted the great cost of overlooking the important needs and vulnerabilities of people living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

People living with kidney disease (KD) were among the most vulnerable during the pandemic due to their illness, as well as the many social and structural determinants which impact the risk of KD and compounded risks during the pandemic: globally around 850 million people have some form of KD, which is currently the 10th leading global cause of death, and if left unchecked, is projected to rise to the 5th leading cause of years of life lost by 2040. KD risk is highest among the most disadvantaged in high-income countries and is common but is diagnosed very late in lower resource settings. The same structural determinants of KD increased the risk of SARS-CoV2 infection and of severe outcomes and death, therefore the mortality of people living with KDs was amongst the highest globally (doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfaa314).

Risk of infection, morbidity and mortality during the pandemic was especially high among people with kidney failure, due to their need for dialysis or transplantation. This vulnerability was recognized in many countries where these patients were prioritized for vaccination (doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-065112). People with KDs frequently have multi-morbidity which further multiplied their risks of severe disease and death due to COVID-19 (doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.4852). COVID itself was associated with a high risk of acute kidney injury - especially early in the pandemic shortages of dialysis equipment brought the need for rationing of health interventions, frequent at baseline in low resource, to high resource settings (doi: 10.2215/CJN.03750320; doi: 10.1186/s12882-022-02827-2; doi: 10.1038/s41581-021-00404-8). Traditional exclusion of patients with KD from clinical trials delayed access to potentially valuable therapies

The pandemic highlighted what the kidney community already knew: social and structural determinants of health are important risk factors for KD across the life course, impact access to and quality of care, and enhance vulnerability of people living with KD to superimposed threats. The ISN on behalf of the global kidney community calls for meaningful global action toward achieving each SDG as a means to improve kidney health; strengthening of health systems at all levels to ensure equitable, affordable and sustainable access to quality health care, especially at the primary care level, including maternal and child health; integration of NCD care across health services, and of kidney care into NCD programmes; healthy cities to improve equity and permit healthy lifestyles; improved education at all levels to reduce poverty and improve health literacy; patient empowerment to identify and address barriers to health, especially for those living with chronic diseases.

### **51. International Union of Architects**

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals after the Pandemic era

International Union of Architects (UIA)

Introduction

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is the only international organization for architects of the world, that unites 120 countries with the strength of diversity and partnership from the five continents of the World. The UIA made regular calls for action to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and minimize the impact of the climate change. The calls acknowledged that we, architects, urban planners and other professionals of the built environment, real estate developer and contractors, have an essential role to play in the process of making better cities in future, by plan making at all level and bringing all the actors together.

Overview of the issues as it relates to the work of the NGO and the priority theme of the 2023 ECOSOC High-level Segment

The UIA took many meaningful initiatives in support of the SDGs, and created the UIA SDG Commission on the UN 17 SDGs in 2017. The Commission delivered two publications of books in four languages: the ‘UIA Architecture Guide to the UN 17 SDGs Vol.1 and 2’ in 2018 and 2020. The UIA became an active member of the Steering committee of the World Urban Campaign (WUC).

Early in the COVID-19 Pandemic, the UIA raised the concern and launched action-oriented programs and created the UIA Covid hub. It gathered all the information and solutions from the Member Sections on how to mitigate the situation crisis. We organised a joint Award between the UIA Education Commission and the SDG Commission to promote the integration of the UN SDGs in architectural educational programs, and revealed the names of the international winners in 2023.

To accelerate the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, we utilised the UNESCO collaboration, the 2017 UIA-UNESCO World Capital of Architecture, and initiated regular awareness programs.

To improve the quality of design, we formed the UIA-UNESCO (permanent) Validation Council on Study Programmes of Architectural Education.

The UIA became partners with the UNESCO, UNEP and UN-Habitat, and the HPF-Habitat Professionals Forum is led by the UIA.

A way forward (expectations, specific policy recommendations)

We must learn how to look beyond our imagination in this post-pandemic recovery time. Mobility, urban landscape and human settlement design represent important priorities for architecture in the context of post-pandemic recovery.

The UIA agrees that the following mentioned points are the way forward for architects in the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs at all levels:

1. Embrace Sustainable Design Principles
2. Collaboration and Partnership
3. Innovation and Technology
4. Policy Advocacy
5. Education and Capacity Building

### **52. Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs**

We, Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs (SDGs Japan), are a Japanese civil society network aiming to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We call on all stakeholders in the HLPF to make a commitment to pursuing sufficient results in strengthening the political will to work towards achieving the SDGs as only seven years left until 2030, the deadline for achieving the SDGs. Discussing post-SDGs at this point in time is like moving on without having done your homework.

SDGs Japan gathers voices of civil society organizations to advocate for national-level policies on the SDGs in Japan and addresses them to the government and policy makers. Last year, in 2022, we got deeply involved in the Partnership Conference on the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles and contributed to compiling targets in order to achieve the SDGs in Japan.

Our recommendations based on civil voices are:

- (1) It is essential to focus on people who are left behind, marginalized issues and unheard voices in achieving the SDGs;
- (2) Mainstream the SDGs in basic policies and national budgeting as a cross-cutting approach involving all areas of policy is required;
- (3) Strongly recognize civil society organizations with expertise as a key stakeholder in implementing the SDGs;
- (4) It is strongly needed to recognize the essential role played by governments and policy makers in promoting the SDGs, as referred to in the 2030 Agenda;
- (5) Finalize national indicators to measure poverty and inequality and set targets as well as use disaggregated data to verify progress;
- (6) Develop human rights-based approaches through human rights education, ratification of unratified human rights treaties and consideration of establishing domestic human rights institutions or its strengthening.

In addition, Japan is scheduled to revise the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles in December 2023. On such occasions, further processes are needed to reflect the views of citizens, such as through consultations with citizens on a public comment process.

This year, as the turning point to 2030, it is essential to explore the way to create a peaceful, equitable and prosperous future with the principle of leaving no one behind.

### **53. Jeunesse Horizon**

Les Objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD) traitent des problèmes globaux affectant des pays, des congrégations, des personnes et aussi de l'environnement.

En septembre 2015, les Nations Unies adoptent un programme constitué de dix-sept (17) objectifs s'étalant sur quinze (15) ans, visant non seulement à éradiquer la pauvreté, mais aussi à protéger la planète, l'amélioration du train de vie des habitants du monde, ceci dans le but de rendre leurs communautés florissantes et paisibles.

Face à cet engagement, il est nécessaire d'agir au plus vite afin de respecter le délai prescrit l'année 2030. Durant cette course à la montre, un temps d'arrêt brusque s'est imposé avec l'apparition du COVID-19 sur notre planète. Cette maladie infectieuse, prend naissance en Chine en 2019 et s'étend sur toute la terre en 2020.

D'après le rapport 2022 des ODD, le taux de pauvreté mondial est en hausse, le taux d'analphabétisation aussi, car près de 101 millions d'enfants dans le monde n'ont pas eu accès à une éducation de qualité. Cette hausse, due au COVID-19, viendra freiner la mise en œuvre des ODD. Notre analyse vise à trouver des solutions pour la mise en œuvre rapide du programme en énumérant des méthodes pour éradiquer le COVID-19 et promouvoir une éducation de qualité pour tous.

En effet, pour jouir d'une société prospère avec des citoyens actifs, l'accès à l'éducation de qualité est indispensable, l'accès à la formation professionnelle n'est pas en reste.

Jeunesse Horizon (J.H.), organisation qui prône le développement harmonieux et durable des jeunes des milieux défavorisés, a développé plusieurs plateformes en vue de former des citoyens actifs en leur faisant comprendre l'importance de l'éducation dans la société, pour ce faire, il invite les gouvernants à réduire les frais de scolarité au secondaire et à l'université pour permettre aux plus démunis d'y avoir accès.

En outre il y a lieu de préciser qu'il existe un système éducatif non formel, différent du système d'apprentissage formel. Ce dernier qui est le plus connu pose aujourd'hui de nombreux problèmes. Raison pour laquelle en 2019, l'Université de Genève a publié un article sur nos méthodes d'évaluation, ils auront découvert que les systèmes actuels ne testent que la mémoire

et moins l'aspect pratique. De nombreux étudiants considérés comme médiocres ne sont pas évalués dans un système qui leur est favorable. Il est suggéré que les gouvernements de nos Etats, de créer des systèmes d'évaluations bénéfiques à tous. Dans ce cas l'on travaillerait non seulement la mémoire, mais aussi des aspects pratiques qui représentent aussi une autre forme d'intelligence. Ces objectifs permettraient à ouvrir d'autres voies de réussite.

Ainsi, des solutions ayant pour but d'éradiquer le COVID et biens d'autres maladies aideront à atteindre l'objectif 3. Face aux réalités de la société, une course à la montre s'impose et Jeunesse Horizon, dans ses missions régaliennes, s'impliquera à fond pour l'atteinte des objectifs ciblés.

### **54. Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur**

We're halfway to 2030 and the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals are being further hindered by the prolonging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis. More than ever we need to accelerate our efforts to achieve what we have set out to do. Our top priority is to strengthen resilience against future shocks and to ensure a sustainable, equitable and inclusive recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on every aspect of our lives, from health and wellbeing to the global economy and social welfare. The recovery from this crisis requires a coordinated, international effort to address the immediate health and economic impacts, as well as to build more resilient and sustainable societies.

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework for this effort, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address the interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and other global issues. Accelerating progress towards these goals is essential to ensuring a just and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At all levels - local, national, and international - we must work together to implement the SDGs and promote sustainable development. This requires a commitment to cooperation, innovation, and inclusive decision-making that involves all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, and individuals.

Efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic must also be integrated into the broader context of sustainable development. This means addressing the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that have contributed to the spread of the virus, as well as mitigating its immediate impacts.

As we work to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must ensure that no one is left behind. This means prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, refugees, and those living in poverty.

In short, the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world. By working together and committing to the principles of sustainable development, we can ensure a brighter future for all and would like to stress that ECOSOC plays a key part in facilitating coordinated action by all stakeholders and we strongly support its alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

### **55. Leadership Initiative for Transformation & Empowerment**

This statement is on issues of critical concern to the work of the NGO, and it is aimed to promote greater commitment and concrete actions towards accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 and innovating actions to accelerate the SDG's implementation in line with the priority theme of the 2023 ECOSOC High-level Segment, which is also the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on infrastructure, water and sanitation and the roadmap to achieving accelerated sustainable goals implementation. Expectations and demands on COVID 19 put potential ramifications for civil society activities, deepening inequality, and fuel structural discrimination in Sub-Saharan (Africa CDC), a situation that is further exacerbated by extreme poverty (World Bank Group). The ability of civil society, including human rights activists and journalists, to monitor, report on, and hold States accountable for the implementation of the SDGs has been threatened and limited as repressive regimes continue to hide under the guise of COVID 19. This has continued to trouble the building blocks for accelerated SDGs actualization.

Recommendations.

- Aggressive policy directions and concrete state actions to end open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene especially in remote communities should leverage the strategic approaches to the COVID 19 to achieve Goal 6.

- Innovative approaches driven by solar, and biogas technologies that address the rising energy poverty in the sub-Saharan is recommended especially for remote communities that are off national energy grid to achieve Goal 7.
- State actions should support and strengthen local multi-stakeholders dialogue and peacebuilding actions that link local initiatives to regional activities in the areas of dialogue and preventative diplomacy to address the root causes of urban and rural violence to achieve Goal 11.
- To this extent, state parties should create a safe space for civil society including human rights defenders' active engagement at every stage in building an inclusive and effective path for accelerated recovery from the coronavirus disease and SDGs implementation at all levels to actualize Goal 17.

### **56. Legion of Good Will**

We, from the Legion of Good Will, present our recommendations on the theme of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): *“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”*

The LGW was founded in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1950 (Peace and Universal Brotherhood Day). Our work in the fields of social assistance and education reached, in 2022 alone, over 330 cities in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Portugal, and the United States. We provided more than 9.5 million services and benefits for the poor and socially vulnerable population.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals reviewed by ECOSOC in 2023, we will focus on #11 (“By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”), considering the integrated, indivisible, and interconnected nature of the SDGs. We mainly recommend that public policies and civil society organizations (a) prioritize access to adequate housing as a key strategy to reduce poverty, (b) ramp up preventive actions and humanitarian support for the most vulnerable settlements or those hit by natural disasters, and (c) raise awareness and engage the population in these efforts, by way of an education based on spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values, since it is critical to fight stigmas and build bridges between people to advance this agenda more quickly.

### **Access to housing as a priority**

To understand the scale of the problem, Brazil's National Housing Plan 2009-2023 showed that 120 million people (about 60 percent of the population) are living in precarious and informal settlements. These settlements are characterized by a lack of tenure security, absent or insufficient infrastructure, irregularities in the urban development process, a lack of access to services, and houses with serious habitability problems, built by the residents themselves without any technical and institutional support.

Our first strategy then is to recognize housing conditions as a key aspect in the social and economic analysis used to identify socially vulnerable or at-risk families. It is crucial to look at the habitability status of each family, as they will be included and monitored with priority in our services and programs aimed at fighting poverty, hunger, exclusion, and violation of rights.

After all, most people who come to us do so in search of support, such as food, clothes, diapers for children and the elderly, money for transportation, medicine, and wheelchairs; they also need access to services such as filing for identification documents (mainly immigrants), health care, school enrollment, and job hunting. Considering so many basic necessities, not all families perceive housing as a right, not least because of its high costs—although Brazil's housing policies recognize it as a basic need for families to survive in cities.



In the first contact or when beneficiaries come to renew their application in our services and programs, they and/or their legal guardians are asked to have a social and economic appointment with a social worker. This is when our professionals analyze their living conditions and access to rights, goods, and services. The family is invited to join our services and, when our offers do not meet their specific needs, the LGW makes referrals, provides targeted guidance or directly reaches out to the local protection network, making sure the beneficiaries get access to the most appropriate service.

Another resource widely used in our units to further understand the situation of the families and therefore improve the services we offer them is the home visit. All people assisted by our services and programs who are having their rights violated or are priority groups for social assistance, that is, socially vulnerable people, receive regular visits, which become more often in the most complex cases, with the aim of monitoring the case.

Out of approximately 14,000 families who were interviewed by the LGW, 60 percent do not own their own home, 18 percent are living in houses that were occupied or assigned, and 14 percent are living in not fully-built constructions—such as exposed-brick houses, canvas tents, poorly-built wood houses, houses built with reused materials, stilt houses, wattle and daub houses, and others. Regarding access to sanitation, most of our beneficiaries do not have access to piped water and sanitary sewer and must ultimately resort to irregular and unsafe water supplies, having their waste dumped in pits, in the open, rivers, lakes, sea, or else.

In our last 2979 visits, we observed many issues that define their housing conditions as precarious: about 6 percent did not have trash collection, 12 percent did not have access to the public power grid, 13 percent did not have doors in the bathrooms, 24 percent did not have doors in their bedrooms, 18 percent had poor or non-existent external lighting, and 12 percent shared their house with other families.

Once these issues are identified, strategies to enhance the quality of life of the families are launched and services are improved. One such example is the case of children and adolescents aged between 6 and 15 whose homes do not have the proper conditions for them to do their homework. We offer full-time education in our schools, and in our social assistance units, we are equipped with suitable, safe, well-illuminated, and organized environments, with the necessary resources not only for children to study, but also for them to grow in good health, proper nutrition, safety, and with access to better opportunities in the community.

### **Humanitarian support and social sensitivity**

Another strategy is the humanitarian support offered to the population living in precarious settlements, especially those affected by heavy rains and floods—phenomena that have become increasingly frequent due to climate change and the urbanization process in Brazil. Over 35 tons of non-perishable food were delivered to organizations from North to South, such as the Association of Abacatal Quilombo Residents (Ananindeua, Pará); the Association of the Community of Cruz da Menina Quilombo Remnants (Dona Inês, Paraíba); the Bubas Settlement (Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná); the community of Vila Jardim; the Zumbi dos Palmares and Asa Branca subdivisions (Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul); and the families from São Sebastião, Alagoas, who are assisted by the National Foundation for the Indigenous People.

Due to economic or logistical reasons, emergency relief to families who have lost all their belongings or face a shortage of basic supplies often arrives via irregular unpaved roads which, on many occasions, are flooded. Many a time the delivery can only be made by members of the Civil Defense or the Army, who are able to access remote areas or areas affected by natural disasters by boat or by air, as happened in February 2023 in São Sebastião and Ubatuba. These cities, located on the north coast of the state of São Paulo, saw the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in Brazil, which left a trail of destruction and more than 60 deaths.

The President of the Legion of Good Will, educator Paiva Netto, warns in his article “In Praise of Peace” that these tragedies, as well as those caused by violence and alarming social inequality, should not be seen only in terms of numbers: *“One of the dangers faced by humanity is the vulgarization of suffering. From watching it so much in the media, some people may come to consider it something that cannot be changed. This is the assassination of tranquility among people and nations when they let themselves be swept away by the ‘irremediable.’ Nevertheless, everything can become better or be corrected in this life, as in the case of Bogotá, for example, with the reduction of criminality. If, by this massacre of tragic news, families become accustomed to the absurd, it will take over their existences.”*

Bogotá, incidentally, has a success story in Latin America with regard to the SDG 11. In the 1990s, Colombian leaders implemented a strategy for urban development, education, and social inclusion that resulted in lower murder, school dropout, unemployment, and even suicide rates. This story is in line with another reflection by Paiva Netto, originally published in 1987, in “Dialects of Good Will”: *“In a future which we, civilians, religious, and military men and women of good sense, hope to be near, Peace will no longer be established under the caterpillar treads of tanks or to the boom of cannons, over piles of corpses or crowds of widows and orphans, nor even over magnificent accomplishments of material progress without God—that is, without a corresponding spiritual, moral, and ethical advance. Human beings will discover that they are not only sex, stomach, and intellect, subjugated by what they consider to be the only reality in the world. Within themselves, dwells the Eternal Spirit that speaks to them of other lives and other worlds, which they seek either through Intuition or Reason.”*

With these words, we conclude our statement to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum and the High-Level Segment, reaffirming our commitment to poor populations and our willingness to cooperate with UN Member States, based on the experience we have gained throughout the 73 years of history of the Legion of Good Will. There are no sustainable cities or communities if public authorities, business entities, civil society, and universities do not join efforts to offer decent housing and education with Ecumenical Spirituality for a Culture of Peace as key strategies for fighting poverty and building resilience in the face of climate change.

## **57. LOSEV Foundation for Children with Leukemia**

LÖSEV’s Appeal to ECOSOC Following the COVID-19 Pandemic;

**"REGIONAL EMERGENCY CANCER HUBS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED"**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the most sensitive and vulnerable groups, particularly those with chronic illnesses. One of these vulnerable groups left behind are leukemia and cancer patients.

The treatments for leukemia and cancer patients weaken their immune systems and makes them vulnerable to infections. Secondly, the infrastructure of health systems may not have sufficient capacity in sudden outbreaks and crises, which causes them to be unable to provide services to cancer patients who require regular and intensive treatment. The third lesson learned is the fact that the mental health and psycho-social well-being of cancer patients have not been protected. High morale, motivation and a positive psychological state are indispensable for cancer patients. However, this necessity has been ignored during crisis and pandemic periods and overlooked in the priority list. Fourthly, regular access to nutritious food positively affects cancer treatments; therefore, the inadequacy of the production and supply chain along with the logistic infrastructure during crisis periods has also adversely affected cancer patients. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that countries' institutions can be inadequate and must be supported during such emergency crises.

Within the scope of the lessons learned, our global call to countries, international organizations, and NGOs regarding the measures that need to be taken to increase resilience and be prepared for possible crises, disasters, and pandemics in the future is:

- Regional Strategic Cancer Emergency mechanisms should be established in order to be prepared for emergency response in times of crisis, disaster, epidemic, and armed conflict by the cooperation of NGOs, national and international organizations. This mechanism should work in coordination with the national systems of the countries.
- These Cancer Emergency Centers should provide services such as urgent evacuation, health and emergency treatment, mental health and psycho-social support, nutritious food, hygiene materials, and field hospitals for cancer patients within a short time during crisis periods.
- The regional establishment of these Cancer Emergency Centers will provide flexibility to respond immediately to countries at risk of disasters. Precautionary strategies should be determined for crisis preparedness, emergency action plans should be developed based on scientific data and findings, and service mapping should be updated regularly.
- Cancer Emergency Group personnel should receive training to be able to serve in times of crisis. This group should include experienced healthcare professionals, mental health and psycho-social support specialists, social services specialists, nutrition and dietetics specialists, search and rescue teams, and logistics specialists.
- Access to medication is a vital necessity for cancer and leukemia patients. Therefore, framework agreements should be made with supplier companies to ensure that urgent medication supply can be rapidly made in crisis situations. As a second step, safe strategic points that are easily accessible by the regional offices should be identified, and these points should be used as logistics hubs for delivering medications to patients.

### **58. Make Mothers Matter**

Learning from the pandemic for a transformative recovery centred on Care

*‘The pandemic has shown us who is doing the work that really matters: nurses, teachers, care workers. As we recover, we need to remember this. It is time to end the inequities of unpaid care work and create new economic models that work for everyone’*

*Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General*

Town Hall with Young Women from Civil Society Organizations on 31 August  
2020

According to a 2019 UNDP Report, accelerating gender equality in all spheres of society will speed up progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. But this will not happen as long as the issue of the inequitable distribution of unpaid domestic and care work remains unaddressed.

Globally, women do 3.2 times more unpaid domestic and care work than men, representing 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care work every single day. When valued at minimum wage this would amount to a contribution to the global economy of at least 10.8\$ trillion a year, more than three times the size of the global tech industry.

Feminists have long denounced this inequitable distribution of unpaid family care work – or *Care gap* - as being a major barrier for women to access paid work and participate in public life. But this issue has to date been neglected by policymakers, and although the UN 2030 development agenda has a dedicated target in Goal 5 on Gender Equality (Target 5.4 - *Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion*

*of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate*), governments have been slow to act.

This is now changing. For all its devastating effects, the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the critical importance of Care work, essential for the wellbeing of all, as well as the current and future dependence of our communities, society and the economy on women as unpaid and primary caregivers. Covid-19 has also shed light on the magnitude of this work, its inequitable distribution, and the resulting economic and social injustice for women, in particular when they are mothers: with school and childcare closures, 2 million mothers left the labour force in 2020.

But what are we talking about?

According to the Generation Equality - Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, *'Care describes both a type of work and the emotional attachment associated with it. Care work includes both direct, personal and relational care activities, as well as indirect care activities that provide support for direct care, such as cooking, cleaning or collecting water, sometimes referred to as 'domestic work'.*

Unpaid care work is fundamental to ensure the sustainability of life, but it is time consuming and it is women who bear the costs: it restricts their ability to generate an income and participate in decision-making, which too often results in situations of financial dependency, discriminations (e.g. the 'motherhood penalty'), poverty and exclusion.

What can we do about it?

Feminist economists have proposed the so-called '3Rs Framework', Recognize-Reduce-Redistribute, to guide policymaking.

### **Recognize.**

What is not counted does not count: recognition begins with numbers to make unpaid care work visible. Conducting Time-Use Surveys is a necessary first step to which member States have committed with Target 5.4 of Goal 5 of the 2030 Development Agenda. But as of 2018, only 72 States had conducted such surveys at least once. This target must be re-prioritized.

Recognition is also about changing narratives and perceptions:

- Unpaid care work must be framed as 'work', indispensable and valuable work, which must be a collective responsibility. Mothers and other unpaid caregivers should not be seen as 'inactive' as they contribute to sustaining society and the economy. This also means taking a more holistic view of 'work', where both paid and unpaid care work are considered, and their interrelation and interdependence is recognized
- Care work also develop skills, organisational and life skills, which should be valued, especially since these are in demand in the labour market. In fact, raising and educating children, or caring for a dependent relative should be considered a 'work experience' and included in CVs
- Policies that support parents and other caregivers must be considered as investments in human capital, not as mere expenses: we know in particular how essential - albeit time consuming and exhausting - nurturing care is for early childhood development, and how much it pays off later in life

Lastly, recognition arises from concrete policy changes as these also shape public views. Paid maternity, paternity, parental and other carers' leaves, as well as 'care credits' in pension calculations are examples of such concrete measures. Disconnecting basic social protection from formal employment and making it universal would be another concrete way to recognize unpaid work.

### **Reduce.**

Unpaid care work often compensates for the lack of basic public infrastructure, including water and sanitation, electricity and other sources of energy, Information and Communication Technologies, transportation, and the lack of essential public services like healthcare and care services. Accessible and affordable public infrastructure and services must be a top priority for governments, who must also ensure women's participation in their development, so that they best serve their needs and reduce time consuming and tedious domestic work. Investing in time and labour-saving technologies like washing machines is also key.

At the same time, 'Reduce' should not be about shortening the time we spend caring for people, in particular children.

### **Redistribute.**

As everyone benefits from it, unpaid care work must be redistributed more fairly, first between men and women, but also across society based on the principle of co-responsibility: every actor of society should take its share, including governments at all levels, communities and the private sector.

Challenging gender stereotypes and societal roles, as well as promoting a more equitable sharing of care responsibilities between men and women, not only benefits women, but also men, children and society as a whole. Similarly, examples of companies which have implemented family-friendly policies to support caregivers show that it pays off in terms of employee productivity, satisfaction, and retention.

This '3Rs' framework is undoubtedly useful as it provides concrete avenues on which policy makers can act.

But basically, we are only patching our current economic and social systems, which are still based on now obsolete assumptions (e.g. the male breadwinner model). Women have tried hard to adapt, often to the detriment of their health, juggling to reconcile care work and responsibilities with their other lives. This logic must be reversed: our systems must be adapted to the realities of care needs and women's lives.

We at Make Mothers Matter are convinced that we need to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. And this leads us to consider 2 additional 'Rs': Re-invent and Rights.

### **Re-invent.**

The economy shapes how we organize societies. But driven by the GDP growth mantra and short-term profits, our current economic system not only completely ignores unpaid care work, but considers this work as an unlimited and free resource. And we can say exactly the same about our natural environment.

In fact, most of the major crisis we face today - whether climate change, environmental damage, loss of bio-diversity and increasing inequalities - have their roots in an economic system that exploits both women and nature.

The Sustainable Development Goals will not be realised without Re-inventing our economy, so that it first serves the wellbeing of all people and the planet in a just and sustainable manner - instead of prospering at their expense. Consensus is growing on the inadequacy of GDP as a measure of well-being and development, and the imperative of moving 'beyond GDP'. It is now urgent to agree on an alternative model and repurpose our economic system so that we recognize, value, and support the work of caring for each other and for the planet.

### **Rights.**

The international Human Rights framework lays the foundation for a dignified life. It is thus a solid bedrock on which to ground a new economic model.

However, if this framework recognizes both caregivers and care receivers as rights holders, it presents some gaps; in particular, it fails to recognize the dependency of the rights of care receivers on those of caregivers.

Everyone should have the Right to Care and be cared for - in supported, dignified conditions - with all the costs and benefits equitably shared across society.

The time has therefore come to consider Care as a Human Right – Right to Care, Right to be cared for, and Right to selfcare.

This would assert the value of Care to society. It would also require governments to ensure protection against discrimination on the grounds of caring responsibilities, and to provide adequate support to every unpaid caregiver - thereby also protecting the rights of any person in need of Care. In particular, a Right to Care has the potential to empower mothers and greatly contribute to ensuring children thrive, triggering a virtuous circle.

Latin America is one step ahead on this path: the *Buenos Aires Commitment*, which was adopted at the November 2022 session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizes care as a right.

According to the World Economic Forum's 2021 Global Gender Gaps Report, at the current pace of progress it will take 268 years to close the economic gender gap – which directly connects to the 'care gap'. We need a paradigm shift and profound structural changes.

Re-inventing a wellbeing economy centred on 'Care' in its broadest meaning, and recognizing Care as a Human Right, provide concrete avenues on which to act to accelerate progress on Gender Equality and social sustainability, and realize the promises of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **59. Managing Committee of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences**

It is vital for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development that the most marginalized and vulnerable are part of the process at all levels. It is possible only when efforts are made at several levels of the governance process – i.e., at the institutional level, community level and the individual level. Institutional efforts are as critical as it is to focus on training and capacity building, stakeholder engagement, resource allocation and utilization. Efforts need to be doubled in all directions since the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a reversal of progress made over the years.

Managing Committee of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has been working with indigenous youth and communities to engage them in governance processes at all levels. COVID-19 pandemic made them suffer disproportionately. Indigenous women, persons with disabilities, elderly and others have faced multiple layers of discrimination. The priority has been to recognize intersectionalities and strengthen resilience against such shocks in future. This is to ensure a process of inclusive, equitable and sustainable recovery.

Some of these efforts include –

- Knowledge generation through evidence-based advocacy to recognize the risks, identify gaps in implementation and contribute to policy making towards inclusive and resilient societies. In collaboration with UNDP, KISS carried out a socio-economic impact assessment of Covid-19 on migrant workers, with special emphasis on women, covering 1500 migrant households from 5 migration prone districts (Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput, Bolangir and Kandhamal)

- Emphasis on digital transformation to bridge the digital divide with special reference to indigenous languages and dialects. KISS has designed, in collaboration with Motorola and Lenovo Foundation, android mobile phone keyboard for endangered Kuvi language.
- Mobilization of political will to foreground transformative learning as a strategic policy choice for inclusive and sustainable growth. In collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), KISS carried out a project aimed at better integration of varied aspects of biological hazards into existing planning and decision-making mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at the local level in the state of Odisha. The initiative contributed to enhanced preparedness and capacity of local government and local communities towards better management of complex risks of natural and biological hazards.
- Engagement with communities, strengthening capabilities, preparedness and resilience at the local level to deal with the crisis situations, along with linkages to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable development. With support from US Consulate, Hyderabad, KISS engaged and trained indigenous youth volunteers and Civil Society Organisations in five districts of Odisha to create awareness on Covid-19. It also facilitated smooth in-migration; out-migration and ancillary support for vulnerable communities and built the capacity of rural youths in livelihood, safe migration and accessing government entitlements.

KISS has been working to promote the use of innovative strategies for full implementation of SDGs, well in time, and making up for the reverses during the Covid years.

### **60. Millennium Child Support Group**

Save Children from Drinking Contaminated Water caused by illegal Small-Scale Gold Mining or “Galamsey” in Ghana.

Safe water and adequate sanitation for all the objects of Sustainable Development Goal 6 -- are essential to achieve many other goals. Safe drinking water and proper sanitation strengthen poverty reduction, increase economic growth, and healthy ecosystem.

Drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services must reach everyone, consistent with the promise to leave no one behind. Improving WASH and water management will ensure positive health outcomes and is essential to prevent diseases notable among children under five (5) years.

But, growing demands for water, coupled with poor water management, have increased water stress in many parts of the world, especially in Ghana. “We cannot continue to take water for granted and expect to achieve sustainable development goals “ In Ghana, small-scale mining has been carried out for many years, generating employment and income. Recently, illegal artisanal mining (‘galamsey’) has impacted the environment negatively, resulting in land degradation and water pollution. Pollution of water bodies caused by illegitimate mining puts community especially children health at risk.

The illegal small-scale mining in Ghana have inadvertently destroyed ecologically sensitive lands, contaminated rivers and drinking water with mercury and other toxins and exposed many communities to serious environmental and children's health. Long-term health repercussions may arise if children continue to drink contaminated water throughout critical stages of development. Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to the transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, and polio.

Although the laws and policies on mining have been enacted, they are largely ineffective when it comes to its implementation because they do not reflect the realities on the ground. The government has been ineffective and noticeably lackadaisical in its approaches toward addressing the issue of illegal small-mining polluting our water bodies. The Ghana Water Company Limited has shut down

many of its Water Treatment Plants in the country as a result of the high pollution of Rivers by illegal miners and these has become public concern. According to the Water Experts, the water is highly polluted, unwholesome and beyond treatment for human consumption. The greater percentage of the population around mining communities still does not have access to good drinking water. Contaminated water increases risk of illness among the children,

UN stands ready to support countries and their partners to achieve SDG 6 across the globe which Ghana is member states:

Strengthen regulatory controls of land allocation for small-scale mining purposes

Identify and protect areas most susceptible to illegal mining activities.

Establish a taskforce to crackdown on illegal mining and trafficking

Create alternative employment opportunities for the youth in Agricultural sectors

### **61. Motus Health Initiative**

Introduction:

A thematic focus to accelerate the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels; should be piloted at a thorough, broad and wide scale evaluation of the prevailing health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. Thereby, birthing definitive containment, alleviation and management protocols as well as effective positioning to forestall further avoidable and deleterious outcomes.

Overview of the issues:

An overview of the prevailing situations will spotlight the stasis, tacit retrogression and unwholesome impact of the pandemic on the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At Motus Health Initiative our ethos is absolutely underpinned on providing free healthcare across Africa and beyond. In advancing the full implementation and attainment of several of the 2030 SDGs, we actively engage in health activism, health advocacy and health policy advancements and adoption.

A Way Forward:

Our recommendations and specific policy recommendations are thus:

Ensure no stone is left unturned in identifying those who still have COVID-19 i.e. continuous surveillance.

Ensure zero tolerance for the spread of COVID-19.

Developing a sustainable approach for prevention of pandemics.

Developing community and national stabilisation mechanism geared to effectively control infected populations.

Championing responsive agility and open-ended innovation for development of efficacious solutions.

Developing globally coordinated work structure for fitting alignment of key stakeholders.



Establishing global public health governance model for boosting policy execution towards attainment of 2030 SDGs.

## **62. Muslim World League**

The Muslim World League was founded in 1962 AD; since then, it has aimed to enhance cooperation and coordination among Islamic countries and others in various fields, including social and economic issues. We are committed to supporting Islamic principles, human values, and global principles of human safety, preserving his rights, and securing his future. We are working to develop the Islamic economy and promote sustainable development worldwide.

This written speech issued on this lofty occasion by the "Muslim World League" deals with a vital issue affecting all human societies. This issue falls under the name of "the need of time," whether for the present generations or the future, with all its aspirations, challenges, past achievements, and consequences.

Man is civil and social by his nature. Sharing and cooperation are the way to his survival, development, and civilization building. So, all the mechanisms of rapprochement and communication in the present era have made human acquaintance and cooperation an indispensable necessity. Isolation and selfishness lead to destruction and civilizational downfall. One of the most important duties was for everyone to have a positive role in contributing with all his efforts to the reconstruction of the environment and society, as well as to support economic and social issues, especially civil and popular organizations.

In the Muslim World League, we are working on civilized communication between the Islamic world and others. We are keen to provide humanitarian services to all without discrimination or bias. We are clarifying the vital economic and social issues that concern the Islamic world to promote cooperation among all in understanding these issues and help in addressing them to achieve fundamental improvements in various fields.

We affirm the importance of joint work and exchange of knowledge and experience between the Muslim World League and the Economic and Social Council in all related issues. We also affirm the commitment to strengthening cooperation and coordination in facing present and upcoming challenges. Providing information, analysis, visions, and experiences will lead to achieving positive results, contributing to overcoming crises, recovering from damages, and promoting sustainable construction.

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis, which has spread worldwide since the beginning of 2020, was one of the worst health and economic crises the world has witnessed in modern times. It led to the disruption of the economic wheel in most countries and caused the deterioration of the economic condition of many worldwide. With its slow receding, the world woke up to unprecedented conditions and challenges with hopes and aspirations to recover from the multiple effects of the pandemic.

The current technology, the outputs of artificial intelligence, and innovations in the economic, educational, health, and social world are among the most critical factors that help in recovery from economic crises. Recent studies indicate that this pandemic may accelerate the transition to the digital economy. Many economic activities can be done mainly via the Internet, such as online shopping, distance working, and telehealth services,

The main challenge facing the economic recovery is maintaining the balance between preserving public health and promoting economic growth. Although economies have begun to recover unevenly worldwide, providing direct support to those affected by the pandemic, especially the most vulnerable groups, is essential. This will happen through transparency and international cooperation in directing economic support to ensure it reaches the affected people in need. Through its executive agency, the Muslim World League has begun to provide qualitative, relief, developmental, and sustainable support to many countries and societies.

We also see the importance of encouraging investment in infrastructure, modern technology, strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors, promoting international trade and relations, and continuing to work together to achieve solid and sustainable joint economic growth.

Finally, we must remember that recovery from economic crises takes time and effort. However, by working together and focusing on common overarching goals, we can achieve economic recovery and create a better future for all.

### **63. Nadam Foundation**

The Nadam Foundation is a non-governmental organization holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In 2010, the foundation began its work in Kerala, India, taking stern strides toward securing gender equity, children's rights, environmental protection, and nuclear disarmament. The foundation has initiated many programs within their community including planting trees, child rights seminars, and human rights seminars.

The Nadam Foundation aims to raise awareness about gender inequality and empower isolated women in rural and developing areas. In rural areas of India, women are often confined to the home and lack a sense of community. In more traditional groups, men utilize oppressive behaviors to keep women in low positions, which often goes unquestioned because of selective religious justification.

Unfortunately, this abuse was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, technology can be a valuable tool in reducing gender-based violence and inequality. To this end, the Nadam Foundation distributed free mobile phones and internet access to 125 rural women in Southern India, creating five active WhatsApp groups. These groups connect women, facilitate learning about their rights, and provide a platform to share their stories and concerns. Women can also contact the Nadam Foundation through WhatsApp to disclose problems, leading to legal aid or police intervention. This approach has helped many women to receive help and move to a safer location.

Moreover, The Nadam Foundation is working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, clean water and sanitation. Despite India's rich natural resources, most of the population lacks access to clean water, which has been exacerbated by COVID. The foundation educates people about the importance of clean water, distributing water purifiers in tribal areas, and conducting workshops on rain harvesting and water management. Currently, we are supporting Kerala's Water ATM initiative. Our proposal calls for local governmental action to collect data on rain and encourage proper water usage.

The Nadam Foundation is committed to spreading awareness of clean water and sanitation along with gender equity. The Nadam Foundation encourages other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to undertake similar initiatives in other developing countries. The Nadam Foundation urges the High-Level Political Forum, UN Women, and other relevant United Nations bodies to acknowledge the value of technology in providing agency to women. In addition, each United Nations entity contributes significantly to providing people with clean water. The foundation confirms its commitment to the UN SDGs. Especially in a post-COVID world, We know that women are critical, transformational leaders and acknowledge the critical need for safe water usage to accelerate the UN SDGs and champion UN Women's principles.

### **64. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform**

Northern Ireland Women's European Platform welcomes the continued focus on Covid-19 recovery in the context of accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. While restrictions have eased in much of the world, evidence from across the world demonstrates that many population groups, and in particular women and girls, have been left behind as a result of the pandemic and progress on SDG 5 has stalled. All of the SDGs under focused review at this year's summit can significantly contribute to addressing this, while they are also central to progress on SDG5.

The pandemic contributed to the rollback of women's rights, by increasing the unpaid care burden on women and disproportionately impacting women's employment. Care services and jobs in female dominated sectors have not returned to pre pandemic capacity, thus forcing many women and girls to remain at home, at increased risk of poverty and violence. The cost of living crisis, arising from factors including Covid-19, conflict and uncertainty, further compounds these impacts, in a context where women were most likely to go hungry, without education and without access to basic services, even before this perfect storm.

The 'hidden pandemic' of violence against women and girls is a gross violation of women's human rights, which increased significantly during lockdowns and continues to increase; in Northern Ireland alone, 12 women were murdered by intimate partners in 2020-22. Femicide remains underreported and even where appropriate legislation exists, too often perpetrators are not held to account. This is perhaps the most alarming example of a widening backlash on women's rights and gender equality that must be addressed, particularly where public safety has been used as justification for rolling back human rights.

The SDGs under focused review can break these cycles. Investment in SDG6 and SDG7 can create jobs for women and girls, while reducing unpaid domestic labour and creating conditions where women's expertise and experience can contribute to developing new climate friendly, people centred solutions. SDG9 on sustainable cities can contribute to safe and effective public transport, which increases women's access to jobs and services. Partnership working is central to achieving change on all SDGs, and through placing gender equality at the heart of decision making, SDG16 can effectively strengthen gender responsive policy making. However, all SDGs are inextricably linked, and it is essential to take an overarching, holistic view to ensure genuine progress and change. From a women's perspective, investment in and focus on SDGs 1-4 is particularly central to ensure progress is sustainable across all pillars.

The tools are available. Now, political will and leadership at all levels is vitally needed to make use of those tools and accelerate progress on an equal and sustainable future.

### **65. Population Council, The**

Consider Intersectional Perspectives from Adolescents and Young People in Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19

The Population Council wishes to issue a written statement to the HLPF under the auspices of the ECOSOC to underscore the importance of investing in youth-targeted policies, programs, and research in accelerating the recovery from coronavirus disease (COVID-19). We present evidence from a multi-country study that highlights the groups of adolescents and young people who were more vulnerable to multiple adverse impacts of the pandemic on their lives.

As the world recovers from COVID-19, there is a critical need for high-quality evidence to inform smart policies and sound investments. For 70 years, the Population Council has generated ideas, produced evidence, and designed solutions to improve the lives of underserved populations around the world.

For this study, our team harnessed data from cross-sectional surveys with young people ages 15-24 in Mexico (nationwide, n=55,692), Kenya (four counties, n=2,750), and India (two states, n=3,537), collected between late 2020 to early 2022. We conducted a latent class analysis—a technique to identify unobserved/hidden profiles within data based on multiple observed variables—to identify patterns across different types of adverse pandemic impacts on young people's lives.

We found prevalent adverse impacts overall, and two distinct subgroups in each country—one experiencing higher levels of all impacts, such as on mental health (44-78% across countries),

education/employment (22-84%), intrafamily violence (22-49%), and friendships (66-86%). This more vulnerable subgroup comprised 40% of the sample in Mexico, 25% in Kenya, and 35% in India. Members of this group also consistently had greater odds of experiencing COVID-19-related infections and deaths of loved ones. They were more likely to be socioeconomically disadvantaged, older, and urban residents. Associations with other characteristics, including sex/gender identity, were country specific.

Targeted policies and social protection programs beyond existing social safety nets are needed to provide layers of support to young people experiencing intersectional vulnerabilities. Specific responses could include strengthening and expanding phone and online helplines and services, community-based services, and support groups, and ensuring these resources are youth-friendly with appropriate referrals mechanisms. Forward-looking policy change is required to prevent similar impacts in the future. The intersectional nature of adverse impacts of COVID-19, and structural and social determinants that drive them, should guide decision-making about inclusive social protection measures, public health interventions, and public policies, including those to promote the wellbeing of the largest-ever generation of young people.

### **66. Precious Gems**

Precious Gems was founded in 2012 and its aim is to empower the livelihoods of the marginalized women, youth, & girls in the areas of education, healthcare, technology, and inequities. In facilitating this goal, we undertake work and advocacy to improve the overall disparities that are highlighted in the 2030 SDGs as a strategy to improve the structures that have stifled communities socioeconomically.

As of the end of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 we have seen the need to pay particular attention to Climate Change we have seen most recently the devastating effects that Cyclone Freddy that lasted for over one-month and directly impacting Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Precious Gems has been working in the most affected areas of Malawi directly on ground in partnership with the MALGA, Gran Community, and other NGOs to provide the much-needed assistance to the communities, already facing another endemic of Cholera.

There is a need for us to promote and adapt sustainable practices to fighting Climate Change as it affects the ways in which we can survive as a society. Women are already disproportionately affected by Climate Change; therefore, we must invest in the education of women and girls, assist with barriers of access to healthcare, increase women's access to land, training resources for smart farming and micro credit and gender & digital technology. Women must be included in leadership roles and processes. There have been extensive reports that confirm equity and a steady income for women is necessary to meet families' rudimentary needs. Precious Gems has witnessed the destruction of crisis has had on women and communities have been enduring in all its locations in which it operates: The United Kingdom, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Togo, Rwanda, Malawi, Botswana, Kenya, and Tanzania. COVID-19, Climate Change, endemics have all had disastrous effects but also increased the societal and family burdens that increase gender-based violence, increasing the equity divide for women and girls, increased migration, and increased security risk to women and girls, decreasing supply chains and access to healthy and food security, healthcare, and other multifaceted issues.

Our Youth team has supported various communities in providing free education and vocational training. These continuous efforts have helped to elevate some of the COVID-19 disruptions in education. The projects have been well received. However, with a large youth population the need for the trainings and development skills classes is still dire.

Precious Gems believes the youth play an important role and strong partnerships with government, INGOs, CSO, religious leaders and the community and with our strong alignments we are seeing stronger and faster responses. This means there are more capabilities in working to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

## **67. Raisons Africaines**

accélérer la reprise après la maladie à coronavirus 19 et la mise en œuvre intégrale du programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 à tous les niveaux

Cette période qui est déclarée comme d'après la maladie à coronavirus 19 ne doit pas être considérée comme un moment de se reposer et croiser les bras mais plutôt de pousser avec les recherches, et de continuer toujours avec la lutte contre toutes les maladies virales (coronavirus 19, Ebola et VIH SIDA) surtout à travers nos pays en développement en Afrique en général et en République Démocratique du Congo en particulier. Pour ce faire, RAISONS AFRICAINES évalue ses besoins pour y faire face contre ces trois pandémies (coronavirus 19, Ebola et VIH SIDA) à 10 millions de dollars USD pour réaliser les activités de prévention et de réponse holistique aux femmes, aux enfants et aux hommes en situation particulièrement difficile en Afrique pendant 5 ans.

Pour la mise en œuvre intégrale à tous les niveaux du programme de développement durable, RAISONS AFRICAINES sollicite l'appui financier et logistique de #SDGAction 49755 concernant l'appui à la couverture des services en eau, hygiène et assainissement ainsi que la résilience à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle à travers les milieux péri urbains et ruraux.

RAISONS AFRICAINES à toutes les parties prenantes de travailler ensemble surtout à la gestion durable à long terme de ressources naturelles du BASSIN DU CONGO afin de favoriser la conservation de l'écosystème. Car le bassin du Congo englobe des écosystèmes forestiers et d'eau douce d'importance mondiale et constitue une source vitale de la nourriture, d'eau, d'énergie, de transport et de moyen de subsistance pour des centaines de milliers des personnes. donc il faut se consacrer à la mise en œuvre des solutions durables et scientifiques pour préserver la biodiversité, stopper la dégradation de l'environnement et lutter contre le changement climatique par la recherche améliorer des vies et construire des communautés, et faire progresser la démocratie en Afrique, favoriser l'autonomie des peuples autochtones TWA, les minorités les femmes et la résilience de tous les bénéficiaires.

Donc notre programme de la conservation et le développement durable que nous menons avec les communautés est en rapport avec les activités génératrices de revenus, les réseaux entrepreneuriaux, et les chaînes de valeurs dans les concessions forestières communautaires de 600 villages à travers les paysages d'importance vitale de parcs à faune à OKAPI, MAIKO, GARAMBA qui sont des sites du patrimoine mondial. L'initiative vise la promotion et l'auto prise en charge des riverains avec comme objectifs de sensibiliser ces derniers à décourager les membres en formant ainsi les ambassadeurs de la conservation de la nature. Le coût pour cet investissement est de 10 millions de dollars USD pour 5 ans.

## **68. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is a non-profit organization based in Rajasthan, India, that works for the betterment of the community, especially for the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has taken several initiatives to help those in need and we think that there are many more which must be looked after. Through this, we want to showcase our working which could be adopted by many others to provide a strong developmental support to the societies in need. Here are some of their efforts:

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has distributed essential items such as food packets, ration kits, and hygiene kits to the needy and underprivileged families in the remote areas of Rajasthan. This benefitted more than 70,000 individuals in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has conducted "Together We Can campaign" on COVID-19, emphasizing the importance of wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, practicing proper hygiene and going for the covid-19 vaccination. This awareness campaign reached to more than 3.5 million people.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has arranged for medical assistance, including reusable cloth safety masks and medicines, for COVID-19 patients in remote areas.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has provided support to frontline workers such as healthcare workers, police personnel, and sanitation workers by providing them with protective gear, masks, sanitizers and medical equipments they needed. In around 300 of such frontline workers departments were reached.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan initiated online education programs for underprivileged children & Disabled children to ensure that their education is not affected due to the pandemic.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan supported rural families in Rajasthan by providing them with sustainable livelihood options, such as reusable safety mask making and kitchen gardening.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan made significant contributions to supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their efforts have helped thousands of people in need, particularly in remote and underprivileged areas, and have contributed to raising awareness about the importance of taking preventive measures against the pandemic.

The United Nations has been actively working with countries to support and accelerate the recovery from COVID-19. It is important to note that every country's situation is unique, and different approaches may be needed to address the specific challenges they face. However our recommendation is to address all the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized and vulnerable communities & also address inequalities in access to healthcare, education, and social protection of these communities so that they could come out from this darken times and could lead to a better future.

### **69. Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled**

The objective of this written statement is to share good practises of public private partnership in achieving the post 2030 development agenda so that this can b replicated in other parts of the world by civil society agencies, government and corporate agencies. The statement is very clearly states that multi-stakeholder engagement is necessary and required to advance the post 2030 development agenda.

The organisation has been making a conscious attempt to compliment the efforts of the government in achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals or 2030 development agenda. It is committed to the overarching principle of the agenda that is no one is left behind by focusing on persons with disabilities and other most excluded, poorest of the poor, deprived and underserved sections of the society through a number of strategic interventions.

Among other things, the organisation has significantly contributed in enabling the students from above sections in enabling them to access education. The organisation has supported over 15000 students with and without disabilities to access primary to higher education. It is also providing special education for children with intellectual disabilities. It is instrumental in digitising the government schools and providing health care and nutrition for 7000 government school going students. All these possible only because of the partnership.

The comprehensive health care and habilitation and rehabilitation services have benefited over 12000 children and adult with disabilities through the provision of assistive devices, assistive technology, therapeutic and surgical interventions and medication for chronic illnesses.

The livelihood support through skill development and placement services have enabled over 25000 youth with and without disabilities to earn their livelihood and live a life with dignity. This has significantly contributed in ending poverty and hunger in all forms every where. This has enabled them to access a decent work and employment opportunities.

Women empowerment initiatives have contributed in rescue, relief, rehabilitation and re-integration of over 2500 women with and without disabilities. They have been living a life with dignity. This is significantly contributed in achieving gender equality and ensuring protection of women and girls.

Environmental protection programmes such as dry waste management, recycling of dry waste, rain water harvesting, water and soil conservation, tree plantation, waste segregation and welfare of sanitation workers has significantly contributed in combating climate change.

### **70. Sambhali Trust**

This statement outlines how Sambhali Trust supported women suffering from domestic violence during COVID-19 lockdowns, helped children return to education, and sought international volunteer support. The organization adheres to the Sustainable Development Agenda to combat poverty, hunger, environmental degradation, and promote peace. Sambhali supports marginalized groups through sponsorship, funding, and a volunteer network, and integrates the Agenda into daily operations.

#### **Overview of the Issues:**

COVID-19 in Rajasthan led to a surge in domestic violence against women and increased suppression in their homes. The pandemic also forced Sambhali to close its centers, making it impossible to provide support and peace to women seeking refuge. The team attempted to set up online platforms, but many women were unable to participate due to household responsibilities, oppression, and/or lack of electronic devices.

The lockdowns also had a significant impact on underprivileged children, as they were unable to attend live schools and lacked the resources and exposure needed to continue their education virtually. This resulted in a lack of motivation for children to return to school once the lockdowns lifted, with young boys opting for odd jobs and girls forced to stay home and help with household chores.

Lastly, Sambhali heavily relies on the international community for funding and volunteers, but travel bans during the pandemic severely impacted the organization's ability to receive support from foreign volunteers.

#### **Our Way Forward:**

Despite not being able to provide safe spaces for women during that time, Sambhali Trust increased its focus on the Nirbhaya project, which operates as a helpline for individuals experiencing any form of abuse. Through a toll-free number, women can directly contact a retained lawyer and a psychologist. The organization works with both traumatized women and men, helping them recover their livelihoods, whether through the courts or in-house resolution. As the issue extended across the state, particularly in rural areas, Sambhali Trust chose to expand its centers, facilitating the healing and growth of severely traumatized women. The organization hoped that success in court cases and counseling would encourage more women to come forward and feel comfortable sharing the injustices they face.

Sambhali Trust also opened more boarding homes, which fund the education of girls from primary through college levels, and hired private tutors to come to the centers during children's learning hours. Sewing classes were offered to girls, allowing them to receive vocational training and, consequently, easier permission to leave their homes. Sambhali Trust not only educates girls but also aims to help them accomplish any goal they set, whether vocational, educational, or personal.

Sambhali Trust introduced an internship and volunteer program for local law and humanities students, partnering with universities to meet their internship standards. Many highly skilled, dynamic, and dedicated applicants applied to create a better future. Furthermore, as borders opened up, the problem of a lack of international volunteers began to resolve itself.

## 71. Sani et Salvi-Sets Universalis

### COOPÉRATION BINOMIALE OBSOLÈTE POUR UN MONDE NOUVEAU ?

La *Société des Nations*, 28/06/1919, puis l'*ONU* 24/10/1945, en tant que plus hautes expressions du **secteur public**, ont assumé seules, le rôle hégémonique de la gouvernance d'un monde stigmatisé par des conflits entre nations et peuples, en l'occurrence, les deux guerres mondiales. Le **secteur privé (financier)** est contrôlé par des organisations subsidiaires de l'ONU telles que la *Banque mondiale* et le *Fonds mondial international*. En plus d'un siècle, la **coopération binomiale entre secteur public et le secteur privé**, gestionnaire globale d'un monde en devenir continu, ne semble pas avoir atteint les Objectifs globaux transversaux attendus : la Santé Universelle, la Paix durable, la coopération intégrale, et le développement.

Les multiples efforts déployés ont distancié gouvernants et gouvernés, consolidé la dette du tiers-monde, les inégalités sociales, la mauvaise gouvernance des ressources publiques ou l'excessive bureaucratie et ont fait de la **société civile** de simples *spectateurs/consommateurs* des politiques publiques au détriment d'une coopération innovée de l'Agenda 2030 : **Coopération Triangulaire** entre les Secteurs *Public – Privé – Organisation de la Société Civile*.

Après l'adoption des Objectifs de Développement Durable (**ODD**), COVID19 a signifié une attaque mortelle contre l'Agenda 2030:

**L'ODD 3. 8. Santé et Bien-être/Couverture Santé Universelle.** Pendant plus de 4 ans, la coopération binomiale a neutralisé et confiné les ORGANISATIONS DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE (**OSC**). La gestion des ressources de lutte contre la pandémie s'est traduite par : plus de 7.000.000 de morts, l'opacité et la désinformation au public, la distribution des vaccins au détriment des plus pauvres, la politisation de la crise, l'excessive bureaucratie, et la lésion des droits, ont effondré notre société.

**L'ODD 8. Promouvoir une croissance économique soutenue.** Les mesures prises pour lutter contre le covid19 ont paralysé toute l'économie mondiale.

**L'ODD 17.17 Le Partenariat pour la réalisation des Objectifs de l'Agenda 2030.** Le Partenariat Multisectoriel, *Coopération triangulaire (Public-Privé-OSC)*, est un impératif inaliénable. Nul des composants de ces trois secteurs, ne pourrait prétendre devenir individuellement ou en partenariat incomplet, la solution aux problèmes globaux.

### Moyens d'accélération des actions pour la réalisation des ODD.

Promouvoir la Santé Universelle, est possible en évitant la **nationalisation des droits universels à la santé**.

Faciliter la participation effective des OSC aux décisions de l'ONU.

Fournir des ressources budgétaires pour encourager la participation des OSC dotées d'un statut consultatif à l'ECOSOC, aux travaux des Nations Unies.



Promouvoir des communautés locales de développement, par des **OSC** dotées d'un statut consultatif.

Exhorter les États membres de l'ONU, en vertu de l'ODD 17.17, à un engagement de soutien aux **OSC** dotées d'un statut consultatif.

### **72. Saudi Green Building Forum**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become a global responsibility, requiring all participants to achieve the Global Agenda 2030. Cities, governments, and non-governmental organizations are bringing in innovative leaders to drive climate change and save the planet. The construction sector is responsible for up to 38% of total Carbon dioxide emissions, causing changes on the global climate scale and impacting measured indicators.

In response, Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF) organized five conferences under the auspices of the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs & Housing; Two conferences under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Planning. It hosted three accompanying events under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In 2022 achieved climate observer status in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Association with the United Nations Global Communications Department in 2021 and earned an environmental observer status from the United Nations Environment Program in 2020. In addition to the consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2017.

SGBF's mission to localize the SDGs through the principles, procedures, and applications of green buildings, as it is a fundamental axis in overcoming challenges

In October, 2023 under the high patronage of the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs, and Housing, the SGBF 13th session, entitled "Localization of SDGs in the Construction Sector," with an open invitation to stakeholders and specialists in the following roles:

1. Demonstrating the efforts of Saudi Arabia toward sustainable development.
2. Encouraging, developing, and supporting green building principles, procedures, and applications.
3. Leading change in achieving the goals of nationalization.

Calling stakeholders, and influential leaders in the built-environment sector to share best practices that reflect goal 11 and interdependencies of the goals to the conference on:

1. Energy and Climate
2. Eco-Cities
3. Partnerships and technology

Continue to discuss the critical issues of the green concept, methodologies and applications form energy, water, infrastructure, human-friendly materials to human experiences:

1. What is the role of the municipal sectors in leading the localization of the SDGs?
2. How do the processes and procedures relate to the Voluntary National Reviews processes? Who leads the process, and who participates? What lessons were learned, and how did they contribute to the local implementation of the Saudi vision? How is the priority given to helping collect data?
3. What are the unique green plans and initiatives? How have some cities succeeded while others failed? How do we deal with extreme heat, storms, and floods? What are the barriers that have been crossed?
4. What can we learn from each other?

Saudi Arabia's vision for implementation is a crucial policy tool that enables the SGBF to reflect the interdependence of the SDGs. It considers friendly buildings, urban landscapes, spaces, and public places safe, inclusive, and accessible to all, particularly women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

### **73. Servas International**

“I am calling for an immediate global ceasefire. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives,” the UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned a few weeks into the pandemic, stating that the “the most vulnerable pay the highest price.”

Despite such grave warning, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 shows that four years of progress have been wiped out by the global effects of Covid. No war has ended, instead an additional war in Ukraine has begun. Multidimensional poverty (measured on the basis of money, education, and basic infrastructural services) has increased, while access to food and clean water has decreased. A growing number of climate catastrophes have additional devastating impacts especially on the most vulnerable. And related to these crises is social unrest now observed in over 60 countries worldwide.

Beginning in 2023 the world counted over 100 million refugees, mostly from rural sub-Saharan Africa, MENA, and southeast Asia. Today one quarter of the global population is living in conflict zones. With conflict and refugee migrations, in 2022 an estimated 95 million additional people entered poverty. As a peace organization with members in over 100 countries Servas International therefore urges to make ending the vicious circle of climate crisis, armed conflicts, and their devastating impact on the SDGs a top priority.

As António Guterres already demanded in March 2020, all efforts must be used to end armed conflicts immediately. Diplomacy and negotiations must be used to work towards peace and bring communities together. Production and export of military armaments must be reduced towards the goal of complete disarmament. As Dyke Robinson already found in the turn of the 20th century, the principle cause of all wars has been economic and until today poor economic conditions remain the main causes of intra-state armed conflicts world-wide.

Instead of further increasing military expenditures, investments must be made in the sectors of education, health and social infrastructure, as well as in implementing climate goals including loss & damages and the Green Climate Fund, which will help the most vulnerable countries especially in the Global South. Food security can be achieved by prohibiting land and water grabs and supporting small-hol diverse local agroecology and this lessening poverty. Water must noch be treated as a commodity and should be managed by communities and nationwide under democratically elected governments. We must aim for a just distribution and sustainable use of water, including transboundary waters.

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL believe that the world needs to turn away from aggressive conflict-driven, profit-oriented growth economy to a world of cooperative self-determined communities that focus on sustainable Earth.

### **74. Settlement Services International Incorporated**

This statement has been prepared by Settlement Services International (SSI), a non-governmental organisation with ECOSOC special consultative status since 2017. Settlement Services International supports newcomers and other Australians to achieve their full potential. We work with all people who have experienced vulnerability, including refugees, people seeking asylum and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, to build capacity and enable them to overcome inequality.

Settlement Services International is committed to influencing and developing policy, advocacy, capacity building and developing strong partnerships nationally and internationally. The organisation is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working towards building an inclusive and

effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We are committed to promoting social and economic dimensions of sustainable development through the delivery of programs that meet SDG 3, 5, 8 and 10.

Effective partnerships and working to strengthen the capacity of the sector globally are key to the work of the organisation. As a partner of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) and a supporter of other locally-led initiatives across the Asia Pacific region, Settlement Services International aims to amplify the voices of refugees and migrants and work towards reducing the inequalities they face.

In addressing the priority theme of the 2023 ECOSOC High Level Segment ‘Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19’ findings from research conducted by Settlement Services International on the impacts of COVID-19 on people seeking asylum, it is clear that inequalities were exacerbated with devastating effects on community. 62% of individuals interviewed indicated they had gone without meals and 76% could not pay rent/mortgages and 52% had to forgo their medication. The pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls, particularly in terms of increased domestic violence and unpaid care work, undermining progress towards SDG 5. As an organisation responding to the needs of community it was vital to find innovate and flexible solutions to continue to implement our programs and work towards the 2030 Agenda. For example, our programs that focus on economic participation through tailored employment support, small business starts-ups, scholarships and training.

The COVID-19 landscape has served as a launch pad to innovate and revise past practices, for example the benefits of technology in improving areas such as digital literacy among communities, in working towards the SDGs of reducing inequality, gender equality, no poverty and decent work. Settlement Services International is working in Australia to deliver programs that will increase the economic and social participation of communities and is working in partnership globally to advocate for displaced communities to have the right to protection, information, health and labour rights.

Accelerating recovery towards the SDGs requires fostering global cooperation and collaboration, including sharing knowledge and resources. We promote collaboration through a whole-of-society approach, engaging with key stakeholders including government, the private sector and civil-society to strengthen capacity in responding to community needs. Our goals are aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we continue to work towards addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

### **75. Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Trust**

As the world continues to grapple with the unprecedented global health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), it is more important than ever to accelerate the recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels. The pandemic has exposed the systemic gaps and cracks in accessing basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, education, job security, and health, and has highlighted the growing dichotomy between socioeconomic classes. To achieve a resilient recovery and eradicate poverty, policies and programs must be implemented that mitigate the global impact of the pandemic and bring about sustainable development.

With over 45 million cases and over 500,000 deaths in India, Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care established medical camps to provide relief and aid to over 70,000 people in the most remote areas of South Gujarat, India, at no cost. These facilities are large-scale, free, multi-diagnostic camps conducted in Gujarat on a regular basis to diagnose and treat a variety of ailments.

Moreover, in view of the pressing need, Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital built and opened its modern 250-bed hospital in Dharampur, Gujarat. The new multi-specialty hospital brings specialized and comprehensive health care to rural populations of South Gujarat and is among the most technologically advanced hospitals in the region.

In addition to health initiatives, Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care has been working tirelessly to aid the countless lives stricken with poverty and lacking basic needs in a time of crisis. In the past two years, the organization's global volunteering efforts have resulted in 2.5 million served meals, 1.1 million served drinks, and 1.2 million daily essentials and food items distributed. The values of the Shrimad Rajchandra Hunger Relief Program stem beyond COVID relief – food distribution has been one of the core initiatives under this Humanitarian Care Program. In 2021 alone, the organization provided food to over 580,000 people and distributed over 200,000 liters of buttermilk through the program. Additionally, through the help of countless volunteers, the organization also distributed 10,000 winter essentials, 62,000 pieces of clothing, 12,000 monsoon essentials, and even 25,000 of various other necessities such as footwear.

The impact of COVID-19 has emphasized the need for collaboration and partnerships to overcome the pandemic's global impact. At Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care, we have taken an active role in fostering such partnerships. We recognize that the problems caused by COVID-19 are multifaceted and require a coordinated response from all actors. Our efforts have included working closely with local governments to identify and address the most urgent needs, engaging with the private sector to leverage their expertise and resources, and collaborating with other NGOs and civil society organizations to pool our collective knowledge and experience.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of the SDGs and the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to development.

### **76. Sign of Hope e.V. -Hoffnungszeichen**

Sign of Hope e.V. – Hoffnungszeichen has worked globally for 40 years with a focus on central East Africa in (semi-)arid remote and border areas inhabited by pastoralist groups. Natural and man-made disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged droughts, have hampered the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To accelerate recovery from COVID-19, the integration of the Leave No One Behind Approach and the Human Rights Based Approach into policy-making is essential, in particular but not limited to the realm of the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

The damaging impact of COVID-19 was primarily economic. In addition, the diversion of resources earmarked for development initiatives to emergency COVID-19 responses put additional stress on indicators across the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 6 experienced a double-edged development: Hygiene measures were increasingly introduced to combat COVID-19. However, these measures were aimed primarily at providing acute support rather than sustained practice. Furthermore, the pandemic triggered an increased demand for water, worsening the negative impact of climate change: Communities in (semi-)arid regions, already socially and economically fragile, became increasingly unable to afford scarcer and costlier water.

Sign of Hope e.V. – Hoffnungszeichen recommends the integration of two approaches in policies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and accelerate responses to the consequences of the pandemic and other crises. First, in the context of the COVID-19 measures, the Leave No One Behind Approach was overlooked as hasty decisions were made centrally which the most vulnerable communities could often not implement. International, regional, and national actors should reassess who has been left behind during the pandemic, and ensure capacity-strengthening and the active participation of representatives from these groups. Second, in the midst of containing the COVID-19 virus to protect the masses, individual and group human rights were violated and certain human rights were given precedence over others. Principles from the Human Rights Based Approach should guide policies to enable rights-holders and duty-bearers to recover from the challenges and contribute to a sustainable implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Complementarily to the Build Back Better approach, the aforementioned approaches frame sustainable policies and solutions to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities, particularly in the context of Goal 6. For the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, holistic, indivisible solutions should take shape while policymaking and future interventions should consider the Sustainable Development Goals as interlinked, rather than individually.

### **77. Smart Women's Community Institute**

Children in the post COVID-19 era: Political participation of children and the problem of marine plastic pollution

— Smart Women's Community Institute

The spread of the novel coronavirus has had a major impact on children in Japan, but on the other hand, some children have acquired the ability to overcome the crisis by themselves. In the time of COVID-19, a group of school children in Yokohama made a policy proposal on a global environmental issue such as the problem of marine plastics to their local government. Their efforts are warmly welcomed by the city council and regarded as one of the best examples of political participation of children in Japanese society.

Through this experience, we will make a recommendation on the resilience of children in the post COVID-19 era and the possibility that their expanded worldview will create a better future of the world.

During the spread of the novel coronavirus, elementary and junior high schools in Japan succeeded in preventing children from becoming seriously ill through the practice of gargling and washing their own hands. Above all, the children themselves have continued to have the belief that “we can overcome this crisis”, which has come to be realized in various situations.

For example, elementary school students in Tsurumi Ward, Yokohama City, have voluntarily started campaigning to reduce plastic waste floating in local rivers from the perspective of SDGs.

To assist their campaign, we have appealed to the municipal authorities, the city council and other schools for supporting children's policy proposals on that issue. Our appeal has led to the implementation of a marine plastic pollution survey in Yokohama City, which is scheduled to start in 2023.

The pandemic has given children a strong spirit to overcome crises on their own, and has also brought about changes in their worldview that expands their horizons from familiar places to the broader world. It is children who create the better future of the global environment.

This is the reason why we will continue to encourage children's participation in local politics and to expand their political influence in our community.

### **78. Sociedade Filantropica Maria de Nazare**

Complex and multifaceted axis of the crisis of survival of human civilization on Earth

The problems of the pandemic generated by SARS-CoV-2 are inseparable from other very acute crises that maintain the mythical "sword of Damocles" over the possibility of humanity's survival on the surface of the Earth.

Actions by national governments, international organizations, local communities and individuals must be orchestrated, urgently and effectively, to avoid a collapse of ecosystems, as far as human presence on the planet is concerned. This is because, as science informs us, life will continue on the earthly crust, but with a biosphere in conditions that will not support our species.

Thus, it is dramatically urgent that the goals presented in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” be implemented, with rigor, persistence and resoluteness at all levels and areas.

We are one humanity – we have known this for a long time! We also ineludibly form a Unity with the entire ecological system of our planetary corner.

The core of the serious danger of us being extinguished from the face of the globe lies in the need of us comprehending, clearly and deeply, the critical reality we face, to the point of acting in accordance with the seriousness that this conviction requires from us: of immediately aligning ourselves with the environmental demands of our world so that we continue to be part of the Earth's biospheric network before we, after having received so many alarming warnings from nature, are expelled from it, forever!...

## **79. Society for Upliftment of Masses, The**

For achieving Goal 12 of SDGs (sustainable consumption and production) following issues should get priority attention. The analysis is in Indian context. Reduce Food Waste: 50kg of food per person is wasted per year in Indian homes. Our study reveals that food is wasted more than once a day in 46% households. There is immediate need to minimize wastage and diverting the leftovers to the hungry while in edible condition. Reduce Fashion Waste: The fast fashion industry is responsible for nearly 10 percent of annual global emissions. Globally, more than 80 billion items of clothing are purchased each year, the majority thrown in the trash! Besides being a major consumer of water, clothing production also creates microfiber pollution that ends in the ocean and has now entered our food chain. Reduce Indoor Pollution: Solid biofuel combustion, paints, perfumes, disinfectants, carpets, candles, mosquito coils and many common household products are major sources of indoor pollution. Adopt Sustainable Tourism: Tourism is a key contributor to greenhouse gases, leading to global warming. As more and more people travel every year, this footprint is constantly growing. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh State of India has earned the title of being the cleanest city of India for the sixth time - a commendable feat by evolving successful partnerships with NGOs, private companies and citizens. It is ensured that each and every piece of waste is fully utilized. It has also become a source of earning from the sale of carbon credits. As a matter of fact, Indore has Asia's largest bio-CNG plant which runs on the wet waste collected from the city. We suggest that following steps be taken by all stakeholders to promote sustainable consumption: Govt should show commitment by promoting zero waste society. The exemplary success achieved by Indore needs to be replicated in other cities of India. Strict penal action should be taken against polluting industries and activities. Intensive awareness campaigns about sustainable consumption is the need of hour. All segments of society should be involved and practical tips may be provided for changing consumer behaviour. Some such messages are given below: Way to a more sustainable world lies in our everyday choices. The average meal travels 1,200 kilometres from farm to plate! By choosing local food, we not only get fresher food, but are also being kind to environment! 2700 litres of water is required to make one t-shirt! Can we wear it little longer? Stop food wastage. Be inventive with leftovers. You can blend, bake, or boil leftovers and prepare a new dish. Do not throw old clothes. Explore some charity avenues and donate. Travel green. Walk, cycle and use public transport. Eat local food. Avoid use of coal-based fuels. Also, avoid use of artificial fragrances, paints, sprays and deodorants. Burning one mosquito coil in a closed room amounts to smoking roughly 100 cigarettes! Take care of your lungs. Use eco-friendly products.

## **80. South Asian Women Development Forum**

Women empowerment and participation have been noted as one of the integral strategies to raise economic productivity and lessen gender disparity. While more women have entered the workforce over the past few decades, there remain persistent barriers in the socio – economic structural norms.

COVID-19 has thrown women entrepreneurs into financial insecurity without regular income or effective social safety nets, which has reversed generations of progress in women entrepreneurship. However, it has also emphasized the significance of digital connectivity and e-commerce though there is stark digital divide. According to International Telecommunication Union, the divide is particularly prominent in South Asian nations, where women use the Internet 36% less frequently than men.

Providing women micro, small and medium Enterprises with an ecosystem that supports capacity-building skills and digital skilling to diversify their products for their development is a foundation for resilient economic and social development.

Additionally, the forum has successfully undertaken several capacity training programs for women entrepreneurs, with a recent focus on addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women. The programs include Covid Challenges-Business Resilience and Business Recovery Action Plans;

Digital Entrepreneurship - Emerging Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Digital Space; and E-Commerce and Digital Marketing, among others.

In addition to several capacity building programs the forum has also conducted an online survey on “Impact Assessment on Women Entrepreneurs Post COVID-19” among 10 countries in Hindu Kush Himalaya and South Asian region. The survey focused on the service sector aimed to evaluate the challenges and effects on women entrepreneurs, identify the adaptation methods employed, explore potential future strategies and requirements of women entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, South Asian Women Development Froum has also conducted a research project on "Bridging the gender divide in the digital ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in Nepal" for a comparative study with 1000 respondents. The women entrepreneurs were from various sectors: agriculture/green technology, service, handicrafts, etc., from both urban and rural areas. The findings will be shared with the relevant ministries of the Government of Nepal. These findings will aid the government in analyzing policy frameworks and measures to support the inclusion of women entrepreneurs in the digital ecosystem.

In order to foster women entrepreneurship, it is imperative for government bodies, development partners, and other stakeholders to devise strategic measures to improve access to innovative financing,

introduce policies and laws that will accelerate equality for achieving Sustainable Development Goals-5.

### **81. Southeast Asia Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Caucus (ASC), Inc.**

The coronavirus pandemic revealed social inequalities, especially among persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. Legal and social barriers that put persons at a disadvantage from accessing health and economic support and weaken their stake in participating in decision-making are abound. In Cambodia, a draft cybercrime legislation provides restrictions on speech or expressions that affect “traditional culture”; if enforced, this legislation may be used against lawful expressions that go against the dominant culture which reinforces heteronormativity, patriarchy, and the gender-binary. In many countries, governments require gender-diverse persons to produce documents that do not reflect their lived realities as prerequisites to accessing social protection. Deprioritization of sexual and reproductive health services push marginalized communities to self-medicate or withhold any form of healthcare.

On a positive note, Viet Nam undertook steps towards gender-inclusive healthcare free from social stigma against persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. The Ministry of Health’s Official Dispatch 4132/BYT-PC provides for a clear policy banning conversion practices and calls for inclusive health care. The 2015 Amendments to the Civil Code created fertile ground enabling processes towards legal gender recognition, specifically Article 37 (on legal gender recognition).

Investments were made by civil society to generate inclusive data to help inform the design of COVID-19 recovery programs. The Institute for the Studies of Society, Economy, and Environment revealed that one out of four persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics in Viet Nam face discrimination in the workplace, while two out of four avoid going to public places for fear of discrimination. In Cambodia, CamASEAN Youth’s Future reported that around one hundred thousand people, including persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity lost sources of income during the pandemic. However, civil society data were not recognized nor supported by governments.

In consultation with local groups from Cambodia and Viet Nam, we recommend the following:



Invest in research to determine the impact of the pandemic towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and gender-diverse persons. Lack of investments on data have led to such marginalized group's disproportionate access to and are often overlooked in the design of social protection programs.

Eradicate laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relations, and remove social stigma towards gender-diverse persons. There is time to make things right to remove all legal, social, and cultural barriers that put marginalized persons at a disadvantage.

Strengthen participation of marginalized groups, including gender-diverse persons, in developing national strategic plans on social protection and on COVID-19 recovery. Participation necessitates leveraging existing data provided by civil society, and creating formal spaces for engagement.

## **82. The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection “Manshour-e Parseh”**

The concept of environment in the third millennium is not only focused on pollution and wildlife but includes all the issues that are raised in industry, culture, economy and politics.

One of the requirements of sustainable development is to pay attention to the environment and natural resources, which as the collective heritage of humanity must be protected in such a way that in addition to meeting the needs of the current generation, the capacity to respond to have the needs of the future generation as well.

The era of one-dimensional attention to the category of development, which was given priority only to the gross national product, is over and it is necessary to think about the quality of life of the people and the sustainability of the environment. Naturally, it is necessary and inevitable to design a procedure to achieve sustainable development in which limited and irreplaceable resources can be managed.

One of the most important requirements to be in the sustainable development circuit is to pay attention to the balance and optimal allocation of resources between regions to achieve sustainable development. Otherwise, the inappropriate pattern in the land and its drastic changes will lead to the emergence of more environmental crises, for this purpose, paying attention to the preparation of the land in order to prevent environmental crises, as well as the correct and sustainable use of all the facilities of the territorial area can be one of the issues. It is important that with the compliance of the World Bank and international economic enterprises in giving financial and technological resources to other countries, it will have tangible effects in the process of environmental protection and sustainable development.

One of the other issues that should be addressed is the role of women in sustainable development, especially its environmental dimension, studies show that women in most countries take more practical measures to protect the environment and optimal use of resources than men, while they are not very active in the field of organizational actions and participation in environmental decisions and negotiations.

Examining the environmental actions of women in different generation groups shows that middle-aged women take more practical actions in protecting the environment, while younger generation groups have a more active presence in environmental organizations in organizational actions.

Of course, the role of education in raising the level of intergenerational sensitivity of societies towards the environment should be emphasize.

### **83. The Institute for Conscious Global Change, Inc.**

Advancing the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Using Geographic Information, Earth Observation and GeoDesign technologies We are already at the mid-point to the 2030 timeline for the successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their 17 targets and 247 indicators. Big Data with its capacity and main characteristics of: Volume, Velocity, Variety, Value, Veracity, Variability, and Visualization provide the fusion techniques that allow for vast amounts of heterogeneous data from multiple sources to be fused together to produce a more comprehensive, integrated, and holistic view of data and its underlying relationships. This becomes a significant driver for the accomplishment of the Agenda with Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) being the integrated technology most capable of interpreting the vast amount of data the 2030 Agenda implementation generates.

A research project conducted in the informal settlement of Manyatta, Kisumu, Kenya: “The Role of Geospatial Information and Effective Partnerships in the Implementation of the International Agenda for Sustainable Development” included the use of GIS, Earth Observation technology which includes Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) which includes Global Positioning Systems, allowed for the collection of location based data to ensure no one is left behind. GeoDesign, a GIS method which consists of four elements: Geographic Information Science; Information Technology, Design Technology and The People of the Place provided the ideal tool to gather, store, process and analyze data and use this data to also plan/design the future of each community to produce the social, economic, and environmental outcomes mandated. Together with research methodologies like participatory action research, a five hundred household survey, a focus group, key informant interviews, situational analysis and participatory GeoDesign discussions; the result was the holistic integrated comprehensive planning of the community to reflect the aspirations of government and citizens for the future they want:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e500ffa099b347c18eaf7f85d64443cf>

The project brought together partnership elements consisting of academia, the Planning Ministry of the County of Kisumu, the City Planner, Multi-Stakeholder groups consisting of Women, Farmers, Religious Leaders, the Youth, Persons with Disabilities, the Business Community, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), the two Ward Administrators, and the two Chiefs.

### **84. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**

Why Eye Health Matters: Accelerating Action to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The Covid-19 pandemic forged an international consensus on the vital role global health plays in strengthening sustainable development initiatives and improving quality of life. Eye health, a major contributor to inequalities as well as an outcome, is a universal public health issue that demands global attention and action in order to shift the world back onto a path of resilient and sustainable progress. Member States must adopt a whole-of-government approach to vision and make eye health integral to their nation’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 2.2 billion people, almost one-third of humanity, are living with vision impairment. At least 1.1 billion people suffer the consequences of sight loss which is easily preventable; they simply don’t have access to basic eye care services. This poses a considerable financial and societal burden, obstructing a state’s ability to eradicate poverty, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind. In many regions, the scale and approach of existing service delivery are insufficient to meet current population needs, let alone the projected increases in sight loss by 2050.

Improving the world’s eye health will have far reaching benefits in the fields of health, wellbeing, education, work and ultimately the global economy. United Nations General Assembly resolution

75/310 ‘Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals’ committed the international community to improve vision for the 1.1 billion people living with preventable sight loss by 2030. To fulfill that promise, eye health must be given greater prominence, priority and funding within global development and health agendas, plans and policies.

The global eye health sector, with support from the World Health Organisation, has long argued that eye health services are essential and should form part of every country’s journey towards Universal Health Coverage and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Health Organization’s World Report on Vision set out a framework for countries to guide action to strengthen eye care within and across health systems, including the inclusion of eye health in essential health services to remove the burden of untreated sight loss and enhance not only general health but also wellbeing, safety and productivity. In addition, greater commitment to the prevention and treatment of sight loss in settings beyond health care, including education, industry and businesses, will help fulfill the central, transformative commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

### **85. The Royal Institute of International Affairs**

Universal health coverage to accelerate COVID-19 recovery and the 2030 agenda – Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs)

The Chatham House Centre for Universal Health is a multidisciplinary centre committed to expediting the achievement of health-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Through its research and analysis, facilitation of government and stakeholder dialogues, and provision of advice to critical stakeholders, the Centre seeks to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage worldwide.

Universal health coverage is a powerful economic and political instrument that can enable countries to achieve rapid and sustainable development. Therefore, it is critical for accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Universal health coverage plays a pivotal role in promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and enhancing health outcomes, which are essential components of the 2030 Agenda and especially achieving SDG 3 which calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages.

The key to achieving universal health care is to reform health financing systems to ensure that everyone receives the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. To reach Universal health coverage, countries must establish robust healthcare financing systems that pool resources and spread financial risks across the population which necessitates significant government support and commitment.

Moreover, countries should prioritize increasing domestic public financing for their own health systems rather than relying on Overseas Development Assistance. While such aid may assist in responding to health crises, it is not a sustainable solution and countries must take ownership of their health systems and invest in them for long-term sustainability.

Universal health coverage reforms are often prompted by times of crisis or conflict, as these situations highlight the shortcomings of existing health systems and create a sense of urgency to address them. Wars and crises can result in the destruction of health infrastructure and the displacement of populations, exacerbating health inequalities and leaving vulnerable populations without access to healthcare.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unmasked the deficiencies of health systems worldwide, highlighting the necessity of universal healthcare reforms. As such, the current crisis presents a unique opportunity for countries to make bold reforms towards achieving universal health coverage, including investing in

primary healthcare, improving health infrastructure and capacity, and strengthening health systems to better respond to future crises.

Chatham House advocates for additional investment in universal health coverage and asserts that the current moment presents an opportunity to implement sweeping reforms that will expedite COVID-19 recovery and facilitate the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

### **86. The Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi**

Corona virus pandemic is said to be the biggest event of our lifetime, bigger than 9/11 as if 9/11 happened in every city on earth at the same time. Covid-19 has proved harbinger of destruction in terms of loss of lives. Trying to insulate from unfavourable circumstances, people were caught in the whirlwind of socio-economic tsunami on the planet. The entire humanity felt helpless to change its hapless into happiness. Mortally afraid of coronavirus-Covid-19, the whole world seemed closed for renovation believing it would be divine intervention and an act of serendipity that we will come out of this pandemic.

#### **EXPEDITING RECOVERY OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING**

For the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis to be durable and resilient, a return to "A New-Normal" not only involves Economy Recovery; rather it needs a Behavioural Recovery. On one hand, COVID period forced an accelerated Digitization, leading to a convenient virtual world, on other hand, it has caused a stressful and unhealthy mental setup for those who could not tune to new-normal and for those who aligned with new ways but lost human touch and comradery. Another side-effect of this virtual world was loss of privacy as people started sharing more than needed to find solace. In the new virtual on-line world, businesses have become online, shopping has become online, marriage-invitations are online, studies are online and work-from-home culture has become the norm.

However, as a side-effect, stress-levels and loneliness has increased multi-fold. This "New-Normal" needs to be augmented with constructive mental well-being measures to keep the social structure from going into depression, compulsive behaviours, and mental chaos.

COVID-19 also made it clear that there is much more attention needed in medical system both in terms of operational efficiency and in terms of innovation. One hand, medical system crashed world-wide during the pandemic and on other hand, the treatments were way too expensive for a normal person. The world needs to take all the required steps to keep hyper focus on medical advances. We perhaps have made technology progress in all the fields, but medical advancements have been relatively slow and poorly funded. We need to have highly efficient medical system that expedites innovations and research to come out with timely vaccines and drugs that are affordable.

#### **RECOVERY MECHANISMS FOR MENTAL WELLNESS**

While COVID-19 introduced challenges of staying in seclusion with minimized human interactions due to online businesses, work-from-home cultures, online shopping, restricted religious and other get-togethers, it is extremely important that mental wellness stays at focus. There was a rise in reported mental health problems that have been described as "a second pandemic," highlighting mental health as an issue that needs to be addressed. The CDC reports that the percentage of adults who reported symptoms of anxiety of depression in the past 7 days increased from 36.4 to 41.5 % from August 2020 to February 2021. Other reports show that having COVID-19 may contribute, too, with its lingering or long COVID symptoms, which can include "foggy mind," anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

People who were part of a community during the pandemic realized the importance of human connection, and those who didn't have that kind of support realized they need it. Loneliness has been found to suppress the immune system and be a precursor to some diseases.

The ability to stay in isolation and still be part of all is extremely important. Sant Nirankari Mandal covered this gap by introducing virtual Congregations where people world-wide came together to stay connected to each-other under the theme of ONENESS (One GOD for All). Staying connected with soul and being able to share gestures of love and encouragement worked wonders with people. Additional advantage was connections getting established across various cultures of the world where each-one was able to relate to same challenges being faced by everyone. Prayers in unison made a huge difference in uplifting the morale and providing sense of living in divine flow with acceptance.

### ON-LINE CONGREGATIONS

We need to scale this model and make ONENESS a global mission with focus to impart right understanding on how to manage our complex minds by staying connected to divinity. The key to this right understanding is understanding true SELF.

Spiritually awakened persons believes that all their assets, material and mental belong to divinity and we as devotees only, are ordained to use them for common good of the whole human race. Rising above dogmas of contended life. With the towering trait of tolerance, they lead a self-reliant family life and maintain order in the society. This harmonised relationship with self, others and universe brings synergy, sharing and promotes social inclusion with spiritual vision. Divinity is the tool to empower the poor and rich alike. God dwelling in mind protects from all evils.

### RECOVERY MECHANISMS FOR PHYSICAL WELLNESS

The vaccine development paradigm got transformed for emergencies it was remarkable to see the development of COVID-19 vaccines within 1 year, going through a stringent regulatory authority. This was never a case before where such activity took a decade. If we did this, now also we may take serious discussions to cut the time from sequence to authorization to just few months for the next emerging threat.

### SANT NIRANKARI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

With the principal commitment of spiritual awakening, the Sant Nirankari Mission participates in several socio-charitable activities to implement the message of Spiritual Head of the Mission – Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, "Life gets a meaning, if it is lived for others". For this purpose, Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation has been formed to Heal (Health) Enrich (Education) and Empower (Uplift) the society with the ideology of oneness at the core. It runs many reputed schools, a Post Graduate College, and several Nirankari Vocational centres for skill development of the unemployed youth. Besides, it runs charitable hospitals and dispensaries across the country. A kingpin project, "Sant Nirankari Health City" is fast developing in North Delhi, with multi-speciality providing world-wide facilities to the patients. The Foundation is also intimately connected with selfless service to the humanity, including instant help to the victims of natural calamities and Blood Donation Camps. The Mission believes that blood should flow not in drains but in human veins. Mission is a voluntary blood donation movement which has been acclaimed at National and International levels. On 13th May 2017 Mission launched Eye Donation Campaign across the country in association with Eye Bank Association of India. Her Holiness says, "The measure of life is not duration but donation. Therefore, donate blood while living in the world and your organs while leaving the world".

The mega tree plantation and cleanliness drives of historical monuments, water bodies, hospitals, railway stations pan India have been widely appreciated as annual features. The Govt. of India have declared the Mission as Brand Ambassador of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission).

### ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SDGs of U.N.

In continuation of all the aforesaid activities, SNCF once again moved ahead to carry out its activities in accordance with SDGs of U.N.:

(A) Water and Sanitation : Water is critical for sustainable development and indispensable for human development health and well-being. Water is the heart of recent milestone agreements such as 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development. It stresses the importance of the participation and full involvement of all stakeholders with the project SAIWAN (Maharashtra) concerning SDG No. 6 Mission has undertaken a remarkable long-term watershed development project AMRIT benefitting 3 lakhs inhabitants of the tribal belt for drinking and irrigation purposes and for increasing their income.

(B) Role of Earth Planet : Representing our future for improving the situation of our Environment for sustainable awareness, believing that people are important but equally important is the planet earth on which the prosperity of the people depends.

(C) Investment in Children and living with Youth : Representing the future. With her divine vision and blessings Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj has decided holding "Nirankari Youth Symposiums" pan India and overseas for focusing on various spiritual and social dimensions of the world, for vigorously aligning the youth with the ultimate truth through various modalities providing youth a panoramic insight into the blissful world of spirituality. Practically participating almost in every youth symposium, Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji goes whole hog with this planning and holds that crux and clarity of human elements are very lucidly brought out in the wide range discussions in the Nirankari Youth Symposiums for enlightenment of the participants.

Whether we experience these problems again will depend on the investments and institutions we establish now. Sant Nirankari Mandal has been doing major work in health sector through periodic blood-donations, opening dispensaries, converting congregation sites to temporary hospitals (during pandemic) and has now scheduled a multi-specialty Health City.

While SNM has made the beginning in this direction, the intention is expediting the effort to a mega-scale where we not only look at efficient patient treatment but also at ways to fund and enable research in area of drug discovery, disease surveillance and biomedical. Such effort needs to be top priority of NGOs so that they can come together to accelerate the process.

Clearly, the world understands that it must be more prepared for any next crisis.

### TO CONCLUDE

Mission is Eco-Spirituality that is being put forth in the world by the Sant Nirankari Mission. Giving respect to Creator and His creations, what the Mission is evolving into a practicable philosophy. By enlightening people with the real relationship of man with man, the sheet – anchor of a new civilization is being built, discovering that our world is much bigger than that denoted by our postal address. Instead of using people and loving things he starts loving people and using things.

Mission firmly believes that contribution to society through schools, colleges, dispensaries, hospitals, cleanliness drives and vocational institutes needs to go hand-in-hand with spiritual awakening.

As a summary, SNM recommends ever expanding Virtual congregations to connect worldwide people under theme of ONENESS; generating awareness on need for Spirituality through worldwide youth

conferences; raising funds through joint collaborations of NGOs for Health programmes to expedite operational excellence and medical research labs, especially in developing countries

### **87. Tianjin Eco-city Friend of Green Eco-Culture Promotion Association**

Tianjin Eco-city Friend of Green Eco-Culture Promotion Association will continue to follow the development philosophy of integration, innovation, participation, and sharing, and actively carry out relevant activities and strengthen the cooperation with international organizations to accelerate the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

We promise to continue playing our advantages over the Marine protection, maintenance of the ecological diversity, youth environmental and climate education, as well as the popularization and the promotion of environmental-friendly products, etc. On the basis of the previous practice, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the public participation and expand the influence on people's awareness of sustainable development.

We promise to prioritize development and be the practitioner of the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to align the 2030 Agenda with our development strategy to achieve higher-quality and more sustainable development.

We call for further cooperation among global civil organizations and advocate to establish a more transparent and more convenient platform for NOGs around the world to communicate with each other, with the aim of realizing synergies and better coping with the problems and difficulties in the process of implementing Sustainable Development Goals.

Long and difficult as the journey may be, we will reach the destination if we keep going ahead. Pursuing sustainable development is an endless process. Only when we join hands together to deepen the global cooperation can we build a community with a new prospects.

### **88. Udisha**

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the world to a standstill, disrupting global economies, and causing widespread suffering and loss of life. In response, countries have implemented various measures to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact.

COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of our current global system. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among other Agendas, also provide a framework for achieving sustainable development and promoting health for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly those related to health, poverty reduction and education. Therefore, accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 is crucial for achieving the SDGs.

Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19:

Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the impact of the pandemic on health, social and economic aspects. The following are suggested as some key strategies for accelerating the recovery:

### a. Strengthening Health Systems:

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of having strong and resilient health systems that can respond to health emergencies. Strengthening health systems is crucial for ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare. This can be achieved by investing in healthcare infrastructure, training healthcare workers and ensuring that essential medicines and supplies are available.

### b. Investing in Education:

COVID-19 has disrupted education systems, with many schools and universities closing or switching to remote learning. This has had a profound impact on students, particularly those from low-income families. Investing in education is essential for building human capital and promoting sustainable development. It can be achieved by funding for schools and universities by the States, ensuring that all children have access to education and promoting lifelong learning.

### c. Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs):

With jobs in Government and private sector being scarce, SMEs are the backbone of the global economy but many of them have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting SMEs is essential for promoting self-employment, economic recovery and achieving the SDGs. This can be achieved by providing financial support, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive.

### d. Promoting Digital Transformation:

COVID-19 has necessitated the adoption of digital technologies, particularly in the areas of remote work, e-commerce, and telemedicine. Promoting digital transformation is essential for building resilience and achieving sustainable development. It can be achieved by investing in digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy and ensuring access to digital technologies for all.

### Conclusion:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on global health and the world economy but on flipside it is a warning to adopt various measures to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may help in accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 through a comprehensive approach that addresses the health, social, and economic impacts of the pandemic.

## **89. UNANIMA International**

UNANIMA International is a coalition of 22 communities of Women Religious, and a group of 'Friends,' in over 85 countries with 25,000 members. For 20 years we have advocated on behalf of women, children, and girls – groups that are consistently most left behind. We submit this statement for the 2023 Economic and Social Council High-Level Segment on behalf of our grassroots members.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the evolution of other crises, including homelessness. Family homelessness was on the rise even before the onset of COVID-19, and our research finds that the hidden homeless are continually overlooked. While international measurements may be underestimated, current trends indicate there are over 150 million homeless people worldwide. However, when expanding definitions to include the hidden homeless, this figure is upwards of 1.6 billion.

Testimonies shared with us highlight the interconnectedness of the issues that vulnerable groups face. For example, a woman detailed her journey of climate-induced displacement. She left her home for the



streets of Eldoret, Kenya in search of sustenance and some kind of life since the rains changed, and food was subsequently scarce. Her experience led to homelessness. This, and other on-the-ground reports look grim, but fortunately the targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda are linked too: progress on one goal helps advance the other sixteen. Moreover, the push to build back better from the pandemic has brought homelessness back into the spotlight. Governments, companies, and voluntary organizations are seriously committed to addressing this violation of human dignity.

Our exploration of family homelessness across multiple country case studies, and through the lenses of several Sustainable Development Goals have demonstrated that partnerships, reframing commitments within a human rights context, and sharing good practices are necessary for eradicating family homelessness. The security of having a home has enabled families to get back on track after their traumatic experiences with homelessness, and innovative, cost-effective solutions like the Housing First model are supported by numerous academic studies.

Given our expertise on homelessness and the concerns voiced by our grassroots members, we recommend that Member States:

1. Encourage and support local organizations like Sophia Housing in Dublin, Ireland, that provide housing with supports to thousands of homeless families.
2. Include people with a lived experience of homelessness in the design, implementation, and evaluation of relevant policies.
3. Commit to keeping homelessness on the agenda of the United Nations through ratification of human rights instruments (such as the New Urban Agenda).

### **90. UNISC International**

UNISC International has its objectives to agree with the concept of the United Nations, contribute to international cooperation by students around the world, and achieve peace and development as an international institution of student chambers in the world.

Hereby, UNISC International writes the proposal for the 2023 ECOSOC High-level Segment theme as approved by the Economic and Social Council.

It will be a positive and effective action for the young generation to encourage learning about climate change through conversations between students of industrial countries and the Small Island Developing States.

The young generation is and will be receiving the largest impact of climate change. This is why they argue to learn about this matter and act against it. However, their limited resources make getting enough knowledge, information, and political power difficult. Then it is important to connect students with governments or institutes acting on the front line. Actions by governments or institutes for climate change should be explained and reviewed fairly by the young generation.

In addition, the Small Island Developing States are especially facing the material impact of climate change, although they do not have material responsibility for this matter. Climate change problems need international cooperation, including both developed and developing countries. However, the Small Island Developing States have only limited political and economic influence because of their small population and geographical distance.

As seen above, each of them has a similar situation. Although both need enough knowledge and actual methods to manage problems, they are in difficult situations to reach resources.

Therefore, it is exceptionally important to connect the consciousness of industrial countries with the reality of the Small Island Developing States. In addition, governments and institutions should share their problem awareness and actions with the young generation.

One proposal for this matter is to hold the conference tentatively named “World Students Conference for Sustainable Development Goals in the Small Island Developing States”. At this conference, students in industrial countries will share actions to reduce greenhouse gas in their countries. On the other hand, students in the Small Island Developing States will explain the effect of sea level and temperature rise on their countries. In addition, governments, NGOs, and the United Nations will also attend this conference to discuss and improve their actions. Through such dialogue, students will know the fact and how they can reach resources and consider what they will be able to do in the future.

In conclusion, giving students the opportunity to have dialogues regarding climate change with the Small Island Developing States will be a very effective action. Our organization hopes that the United Nations and other related institutions will support the young generation to create their future.

### **91. United Nations Association of China**

Take the Road of Solidarity and Win-Win Cooperation  
to Create a Better Future of Peace and Development

At present, mankind is facing unprecedented challenges. The disruption of the global supply chain, financial instability, energy crisis and food shortage have had a profound impact on the world. The global deficit in peace, development, security and governance has worsened, and the world has once again stood at a crossroads of history, and the choice of which way to go is up to the people of all countries.

These major issues and challenges are no longer confined to one region and cannot be addressed by a single country. Global issues and challenges require concerted cooperation by all countries, and win-win cooperation is the inevitable choice.

How can the world push forward reform amid turbulence and see hope amid challenges? This written statement will discuss possible ways to accelerate recovery from COVID-19 and fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels from four aspects: promoting a community with a shared future for mankind, promoting balanced and sustainable development, building a just and equitable international order, and carrying out dialogue among civilizations.

#### **I. Building a community with a shared future for mankind**

The vision of a community with a shared future for mankind advocates solidarity and cooperation to safeguard common security and promote common development. To build a community with a shared future for mankind, we need to follow the principles of dialogue and consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, win-win cooperation, exchanges and mutual learning, green and low-carbon development, replace division with unity, confrontation with cooperation, and inclusiveness with exclusion, and jointly build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind responds to the common aspiration of all countries to pursue development and progress. It has received increasing support from the international community and has been written into important documents such as UN General Assembly resolutions, Security Council resolutions and UN Human Rights Council resolutions on many occasions. Over the past decade, the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom of all mankind have gained increasing popularity. In recent years, China has put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. It will inject strong positive energy into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and make new and greater contributions to a more prosperous and beautiful future.

## **II. Promote balanced and sustainable development**

Development is the key to solving the problems of most developing countries. In order to achieve sustainable development of mankind, the international community should first try to solve the problem of poverty in developing countries and free them from dependency and marginalization.

China has been a responsible supporter and contributor to the 2030 Agenda. In order to advance the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China put forward the Global Development Initiative during the 76th UN General Assembly, which aims to face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and usher in a new stage of more balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development. This Initiative calls for international cooperation in eight areas: poverty reduction, food security, anti-epidemic and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity in the digital era.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to promote policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people exchanges among countries along the routes. It aims to address inequalities in the world economy suffered by developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Over the past decade, the Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in more than 3,000 cooperation projects, mainly in infrastructure construction. Chinese companies have invested 397.9 billion RMB yuan in cooperation zones in countries along the routes, creating 421,000 local jobs. The Belt and Road cooperation has added new impetus and energy to the development of countries along the routes and made positive contributions to global development.

## **III. Improve global security governance**

Peace is the prerequisite for development and the ardent hope of peace-loving people all over the world. Safeguarding world peace and opposing hegemonism are the basic norms governing international security relations. We must adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, in particular the important principle of respecting state sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the UN Charter, which is the cornerstone of modern international law and international relations. There should be no blocs of major powers and no double standards. Safeguarding the authority of the United Nations and universally recognized international norms, strengthening coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, and achieving effective disarmament and arms control are reliable prerequisites for preventing conflicts and wars.

China has adhered to genuine multilateralism, promoted democracy in international relations, and worked to make global governance more just and equitable. China has put forward the global security Initiative, calling for a spirit of solidarity to adapt to the profoundly adjusting international landscape and a win-win approach to complex and intertwined security challenges. The aim is to eliminate the root causes of international conflicts, improve global security governance, and encourage the international community to work together to inject more stability and certainty into an era of turbulence and change, so as to achieve lasting peace and development of the world.

## **IV. Respect the diversity of civilizations and carry out dialogue among civilizations**

The building of a community with a shared future for mankind is not about replacing one system with another, or one civilization with another. Rather, countries with different social systems, histories and cultures, and levels of development, share common interests, rights and responsibilities in international affairs, and form the greatest common denominator of building a better world. The Global Civilization Initiative, put forward by China in March this year, sincerely calls the world to further promote exchanges and dialogue among civilizations and promote the progress of human civilization through inclusiveness and mutual learning, and once again contribute China's wisdom and solutions to advancing international cooperation at a higher level.

The exploration of the modernization road of each country must be based on the roots of its own civilization. Modernization refers not only to the modernization course of developed countries, but also to the goal and development course of developing countries to catch up with developed countries. If a

country blindly imitates the western model and does not proceed from its own national conditions, characteristics and reality, it will undoubtedly lead to the disaster of civilization.

The pursuit of Chinese modernization, deeply rooted in the Chinese civilization for more than 5,000 years, pursues high-quality development, develops people's democracy throughout the process, enriches the people's spiritual world, achieves common prosperity for all people, promotes harmonious coexistence between man and nature, promotes the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and creates a new form of human civilization. This will provide a new choice for countries and nations that want to speed up development while maintaining their independence. It will also inject confidence and strength into the world and create huge opportunities.

We live in a time of great challenge, but also a time of great promise. We are convinced that the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation is unstoppable. It should be the common pursuit of all countries to maintain international peace and security and promote global development and prosperity.

In the face of profound changes unseen in a century, with the purpose of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China has taken an active part in global governance, worked with the international community to address the "four major deficits", and will continue to contribute China's wisdom and solutions to the building of a better human society.

### 92. United Nations Association of Russia

The UN Association of Russia is pleased to have the opportunity to address the HLPF-2023 and present the results and outcomes of its work on the 2030 Agenda within the past twelve months. During this period, the Association held a number of activities within the Regional Forum 2023 on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development of the UN ESCAP, the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (RECI 2022), the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and the COP27.

The main outcomes of our activities are as follows:

- Russian regions have many positive sustainable projects and practices that can be a subject of international cooperation, especially in the UNECE and the Asia-Pacific regions. The participants of the UNA-Russia program "Russian Regions and the SDGs" (Moscow, Sverdlovsk oblast, the Republic of Tatarstan and Samara oblast) are ready for strengthen existing and forge new partnerships on different levels and in a variety of sectors to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Thus, **Moscow** has been working diligently for over a decade to adapt the SDGs.

Over 1000 electric buses operate on city routes daily. By 2030 Moscow plans to completely switch to electric public transport. Moscow launches year-round electric river transport.

This year half of Moscow's clinics will be reconstructed. This will modernize the buildings under a new standard, install new diagnostic and medical equipment, create better conditions for patients and doctors.

Mos.ru is an online portal for residents to solve almost any life situation, at any time and place. Over 400 public services are available online for the convenience of over 15mil users. Other portals allow citizens to vote for the implementation of urban solutions or report issues in urban facilities.

Half of Moscow's area is green spaces. Under the "Million trees" project over 4 million trees, bushes were planted. "Our tree" project allows families to have a tree planted in the name of their newborn child.

The Government of the **Sverdlovsk Region**, with the support of international organizations of the UN system, is implementing projects to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda with the aim of creating favorable conditions for the development of the region and improving the standard of living of the population through the implementation of global projects. Cities, business and public associations, educational, scientific and cultural institutions of the Sverdlovsk Region are participants in the programs to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, with the support of the Government of the Region, conducted a special study of companies, which included a chapter on the ESG agenda.

In 2022, the Commission for sustainable development and ESG was established. One of its goals is to create a universal information platform on ESG topics for a wide range of people. The Commission disseminates the best global practices in the field of ESG and creates an expertise center for sustainable development in the Urals.

As part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, joint textile industry productions are being created with foreign partners in the category of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

Despite geopolitical factors **Tatarstan Investment Development Agency (TIDA)**, contributes in achievement of sustainable development goals (SGD) by **the Republic of Tatarstan** through promotion.

The best practice on SDGs for TIDA is creation of the SDG zone at the International Economic Forum «Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum». In 2022 the SDG stand occupied mammoth 112 sq. m. In 3 three days, the SDG zone was visited by more than 9,400 people from 7 countries and 18 regions of Russia. Lectures and interactive games were organized for the guests. At the stand, one could also get acquainted with the existing practices in Tatarstan to achieve the SDGs. After being acquainted with the SDGs, visitors wrote their sustainable promises on the stand, which must be fulfilled after the summit.

Booth areas: Sustainable promises; 10 questions for the implementation of the SDGs; Implementation of the SDGs: why and how (facts); Best practices in the Republic of Tatarstan.

The TIDA recommends to participate in events hosted by the UN Association of Russia to exchange best practices with colleagues from other regions and to follow the work of companies in SDGs, because they feel and follow the demands of the market.

**The Samara oblast** is among the Russian regions with a high level of investment attractiveness. More than 200 investment projects with a total investment of 1.3 trillion rubles are being implemented in the Samara region. Investment sites are important elements of infrastructure of the region. The main project is the Togliatti Special Economic Zone, one of the top three in the country.

The region has a network of industrial parks, including the well-known high-tech industrial park Zhigulevskaya Dolina, as well as two priority development areas in the single-industry towns of Togliatti and Chapaevsk.

The number of new productions in 2022 reached 25, which is one of the highest figures in recent years, this includes Russia's first production and logistics center (MMK-PLC-Togliatti LLC), the Yandex.Market Logistics Center, a large hub of the online retailer OZON.

In order to develop educational infrastructure the Samara region is building an international university campus, which will become a key base for the world-class Research and Education Center "Engineering of the Future".

- Russian business emphasizes its commitment to the SDGs and is ready to develop international cooperation.

**Sber** is the largest bank in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and one of the leading financial institutions worldwide. Sber has been actively supporting its corporate and retail clients, while also working closely with the government at the national and regional levels, strengthening international cooperation.

While participating the ESCAP events Sber promoted the need for greater sustainable finance and climate policy coherence, which is a critical element for the success of the Agenda 2030. Thus, the development of common approaches towards ESG finance regulation across sectors and regions is particularly important to bringing more transparency and clarity to investors and financial institutions; scaling up financing for climate adaptation and sustainable development.

Another issue Sber is advocating for is the promotion of the regional ESG transformation and sustainability enhancement. In this regard, three key aspects play a critical role in achieving the sustainability goals at the regional level: 1) technologies and innovations, 2) mobilizing financial resources and joint investments, and 3) inter-regional cooperation and collaboration. Sber has already accumulated vast experience and ready to foster further cooperation in all three areas. This includes the development of regional ESG strategies and collaboration with regional governments and other institutions.

The **RusHydro** highlights some best practices and recommendations useful for the international community on the way to achieving the SDGs. Among them is: 1) A climate project, which is being implemented at Vladivostok CHPP-2, and which will result in the generation of more than 380,000 carbon units and their further sale on the market, or the offset of the units for greenhouse emissions reduction and avoidance of penalties against the company. 2) A project is being implemented to create an automated ESG catalog – a solution for energy enterprises. ESG – catalog – a software solution for automating the processes of assessing ESG –parameters and investment attractiveness of an individual enterprise within the RusHydro Group, as well as for the formation and selection of measures to improve these indicators. 3) A system for assessing the compliance of operated hydropower facilities with sustainable development criteria is being introduced, tested at 6 hydropower facilities that differ in their parameters, characteristics, forms of ownership and management. The introduction of the HPF SD assessing Methodology allows improving the quality of management of hydropower facilities, as well as becoming the basis for creating an industry ESG standard of the Russian Federation. 4) At thermal and

hydropower facilities, elements of production systems are being introduced aimed at identifying losses and problems in production processes.

**UC RUSAL**, a global producer of low carbon aluminium with full cycle production assets in 13 countries, is actively engaged to help delivering the UN SDGs focusing on seven of them: SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 15 Life on Land and SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals. As a UN Global Compact Signatory since 2002, RUSAL regularly reports its progress against the delivery of the SDGs on the UNGC online portal.

As a solid contribution to SDGs 12, 13, and 15, the company has implemented a number of key environmental initiatives to upgrade its production technologies to reduce energy use and air pollution, embed reliable GHG emission management system to cut the carbon footprint (including via the low carbon aluminium ALLOW brand marketed worldwide) and implement circularity approach to minimize use of water and generation of industrial waste. To help delivering against SDGs 3, 8, and 11, UC RUSAL has invested to build eight medical aid centers to combat COVID-19 pandemic and keeps donating medical supplies across the territories where it operates. On top of it, UC RUSAL has launched social programs designed to support inclusive and gender-balanced education, science, sports, and culture across the local communities. The company's best practices and progressive approaches towards building sustainable future ('making sustainability affordable across the aluminium value chain') are widely recognized by reputable NGOs and associations serving a scalable and repeatable model for other businesses in Russia and outside.

**Nornickel** fully supports the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Company continuously improves environmental protection, human rights protection, industrial and occupational safety, environmental impact assessment mechanisms, and biodiversity conservation.

The main projects in this area are: Biodiversity research – the Great Scientific Expedition set up to study biodiversity in the territories of the Company's operations, the Company's impact on biodiversity; The results of the projects to upgrade and improve efficiency and environmental friendliness of production facilities, including the results of the Sulfur Dioxide Emission Reduction Program; Improving our engagement practices with indigenous peoples. Application of the FPIC procedure during the relocation of the Tukhard settlement in Taimyr and obtaining indigenous peoples' consent to the development of the Kolmozerskoye field in the Murmansk Region; In 2022, Nornickel disclosed details of the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Strategy. The Company formed a system for managing climate change risks and opportunities based on unified scenarios.

- Building a sustainable future requires a broad NGO partner network. The voices of civil society should continue to be the focus of attention throughout the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The potential of public-private partnerships and non-profit organizations shall be expanded on the ECOSOC platforms in order to increase the effectiveness of efforts and contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This will open up new opportunities both for interstate dialogue and for internal discussions on economic, social and environmental issues.
- Businesses, including small and medium companies, and NGOs shall be more involved in the preparation of the national voluntary reports on the achievements of SDGs. International practices and experience exchange in this regard can be considered for further development of the regulations of such business and NGOs involvement.
- The COVID-19 pandemic negatively influenced almost all key sectors of the world economy and development plans for the future, now it is compounded by problems in the financial, energy and food sectors. Joint efforts to rectify the situation are vital in present conditions.
- The UN cooperation with countries' regional and cities authorities makes the work on the Agenda-2030 more effective and more understandable for those people who live in these regions and cities.
- More attention is required to the procedure for public assurance of public non-financial reporting of companies, regional and municipal public authorities in the field of sustainable development and ESG.
- SDGs Ranking of Russian regions developed by the MGIMO University, and the UN Association of Russia presents a positive practice of local voluntary SDGs reporting and encourages regions to find out new sustainable practices and issues to develop.

### **93. Universal Versatile Society Nagathana, Ta./Dist.:Washim**

After fleeing from quagmire of coronavirus, the world has encountered a catalogue of human-made misfortune such as Ukraine-Russia war, the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and a string of natural hazards that occurred in major food exporters. Those incidents set off concurrent chain reactions

amongst member states that should be resolved effectively and underpinned with robust and sustainable strategy to accelerate the economic recovery at all levels. The objective of this statement is to identify the cross-cutting issues facing NGOs regarding the trajectory of economic, social and environmental development. This briefing will tersely discuss the long-term impact in the above fields and further propose a feasible approach to pull together for economic prosperity, social stability and environmental sustainability.

Although Universal Versatile Society has accumulated years of project experiences in innovative agri-food transformation system, business intelligence-shored digital village network, farmers' welfare programme and implementation of climate action, this Indian NGO still has trouble in raising green funds, strengthening the agricultural infrastructure, increasing crop yield and practically improving the farmers' welfare. Under the circumstance that India will become the nation with the largest population by the middle of 2023, demographic issue may aggravate the perennial problem, that is, resource scarcity and social contradiction. Thus, how to morph those human resources into population dividend is paramount during the process of climate capacity building, agrifood transformation and economic transition. As per China's "growth miracle" and other successful cases to solve social problems, fully mobilising human capital and talents' creativity is the crux to tackle the dilemma on the realisation of the 17 sustainable development goals. Meanwhile, international cooperation will also play a crucial role in implementing and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development.

To better understand communication mechanism and advance the engagement of stakeholders, regional economic advantages should be utilised by means of progressive policies. The widespread adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in agriculture sector ought to be

empowered in line with international regulations. With the support of government at all levels, labour force participation in decision-making process should be boosted through dialogues and workshops for achieving intergenerational equity.

Last but not least, recoupling global strategic partnership in the primary industry needs to be further strengthened to skim off the dysfunctional procedure jeopardising stakeholders' benefits from the existing systems, streamline the current communication channels and enhance the information transparency to narrow the gap in communication.

### **94. University College Dublin**

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

The Transforming Education Summit, a key initiative of Our Common Agenda, elevated education to the top of the global political agenda to recover from losses during COVID-19 and be the great enabler for the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The need to elevate education needs to be a key policy message coming out of the HLPF, the 2023 SDG Summit and all inter-governmental processes leading up to the Summit of the Future in 2024. SDG 17 Partnerships will be critical for revitalizing national and global efforts to transform education.

In 2020, SDSN launched the global initiative Mission 4.7 in partnership with UNESCO, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, and the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. Mission 4.7's vision is a world in which the SDGs are achieved through lifelong learning using relevant educational content, educational programs and professional training to advance sustainable development.

On solutions day during TES SDSN organised a session on "Transforming ESD -Implementing the UNESCO Open Education Resource (OER) Recommendation with Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, co-organised by UN Academic Impact, UNESCO and the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Ghana to the UN.

Key Outcomes include,

SDSN and UNESCO co-chairing a Joint Partnership committee to support capacity building and policy development in the framework of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER 2019.

This includes the establishment of an OER Overlay Repository that creates and host SDG OERs that are high-quality digital resources, link to a common SDG taxonomy, with open licences easily repurposed and uploaded to any Learning Management System (LMS).

Partnerships to transfer SDG OER across institutions globally that can be uploaded to LMSs in Governments, Corporations, NGOS and the Education Sector and used to create the skills of the future will all need.

Finally, partnerships that link SDG OER to Science Policy Practice Interfaces in Parliamentary Libraires including the UN Library.

Notes: Establishment of an Open Educational Resources (OER) Overlay Repository of refereed, open licenced, tagged with an UN DESA Taxonomy, library repositories of educational content in support of the UN 2030 Agenda and advancing Education for Sustainable Development. The OER “Overlay” Repository (Journal) will be a one-of-a-kind best practice use of library repositories, providing open access to the world’s best teaching and learning content, and operating on FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) and CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles.

### **95. VAAGDHARA**

The Corona virus imposed grave threats to humanity across the world. People around the world suffered with loss of livelihood sources, food and nutrition insecurity of their family members, especially children, and lack of many other vital elements required in daily life. Indigenous people, who mostly dwell in the forests and other isolated areas, could not remain untouched by it either. These communities were already facing a high degree of socio-economic marginalization and owing to pandemic, they became more vulnerable. However, indigenous communities are known to seek their own solutions to these problems. Using their traditional knowledge, and practices, they have been striving to overcome the challenges created by the Covid -19.

It is well known that for the countries having an agriculture-based economy, the agriculture-practices holds the key to push millions out of grim situations. Indigenous communities, like in Central – Western India – who are mostly the small and marginal farmers are practicing agriculture following the ideology of ‘Swaraj’ or Sovereignty for ages. Following these principles, their dependency on the external environment for earning livelihood, food security, health and nutrition, is minimal and they are moving out of the darkness created by Covid-19. Sovereignty can rightly be said as the only key to recover from the repercussions of the pandemic. Their traditional lifestyle and culture, based on circular economy, which is helpful in promoting restorative and regenerative processes, are a source of their resilience, which makes them self-sufficient, reducing their dependency on externals. Their traditional farming practices are helping them to improve their socio-economic dimensions and also holding them back from migration. Their Seed Sovereignty related to conserving and exchanging indigenous seeds; Soil Sovereignty for increasing health of their soils through eco-friendly farming practices; Food and Nutrition Sovereignty – cultivating and utilizing traditional nutritious crops; Water Sovereignty – governance of water resources by communities; Cultural Sovereignty – promoting an ecosystem for restoring traditional value-based practices, have pulled them out of the critical situation.

The indigenous communities are seen as one of the most disadvantaged communities, but in actual they are a rich source of learning and inspiration. The sovereignty principles they follow have multiple solutions to the global challenges and it is necessary to frame policies which promote circular lifestyle,



culture and practices of indigenous communities to the outer world. This will certainly help in resilient recovery from the unforeseen situations like Covid-19 and contribute in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with happiness.

## **96. Verband der deutschen hoehlen- und Karstforscher e.V.**

Protection of vulnerable ground water resources in karst landscapes supplying 10% of the world's population with water

Karst is a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone and gypsum and is characterised by underground drainage systems as caves. It covers 20% of the world's surface and supplies 10% of the world population with drinking water from karst aquifers. This subterranean ecosystem also hosts a fauna with a multitude of species adapted to unique conditions.

The SDG 6 Water is well recognized as being one of the enablers to achieve climate resilience. Yet karst aquifers with ground water resources are the most vulnerable to contamination. Once underground, water moves much more rapidly in conduits (kilometres per day) than in most non-karst groundwaters (metres per year), so contaminants can spread over large distances to harm people and subterranean species and ecosystems. Pollutants may become trapped in karst aquifers and then be released over time at springs. Since this is all not visible from the surface the threats are often underestimated by institutions being not familiar with subterranean ecosystems.

VdHK calls on to recognize groundwater resources as a biodiversity hotspot. We call to protect groundwater in and near karst areas by prohibiting mining activities and considering water safety and its sustainability for any planning of industrial and agricultural activities.

## **97. Voice of Specially Abled People Inc.**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges, especially towards Persons with Disabilities. Suddenly faced with limited access to caregivers, they had the added burden of limited financial resources and diminishing livelihood due to a lack of work and, for some, even begging at public places. With many unable to access personal hygiene kits and resources as necessary as food and groceries, nearly 15% of the global population faced immense exclusion and survival challenges. The rest of the world also experienced glimpses of the challenges of isolation that persons with disabilities often encounter. On the flip side, the world figured out ways to work, learn, and interact virtually. Technology adoption transformed the way we live post COVID-19 forever, making this long-awaited practice a “new norm” now. Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP) believes that, although the pandemic had a detrimental impact, it has presented a far bigger, unprecedented and sustained opportunity to mainstream 1 billion Persons with Disabilities, accelerating implementation of the UN SDGs by 2030. The world can harness the opportunities presented by remote learning and working, thereby providing a level playing field for Persons with Disabilities who may have challenges to commute. VOSAP has accelerated its Enablement program to equip them with Assistive Devices to learn, earn and live in an inclusive, post-pandemic society, thereby accelerating SDGs, a far more realistic scenario post COVID-19. During the pandemic, VOSAP reached out to more than 6500 persons with disabilities to provide groceries and personal hygiene kits, in addition to organizing mass vaccination events, improving Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3). Through its flagship Art from Heart initiative, VOSAP engaged more than 4200 artists to promote inclusion for persons with disabilities through art. VOSAP also developed a robust platform for a virtual 3-D exhibition on assistive technology which is now visited by more than 14,000 people (SDG 9). Lastly VOSAP led a remote internship to amass compelling data points on persons with disabilities to formulate policy recommendations. While working to accelerate recovery from the pandemic, VOSAP is enabling remote education by providing assistive devices such as smartphones, KIBO hardware for the visually impaired (SDG 4). VOSAP is also providing devices such as sewing machines, wheelchairs, hearing devices and tricycles, at no cost and created a job portal for persons with disabilities, thereby increasing employment opportunities that drive Decent Work and Economic

Growth (SDG 8), which will substantially reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and bring us closer to No Poverty (SDG 1). VOSAP encourages everyone to learn more about emerging opportunities with the power of assistive technology in a virtual world.

### **98. Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society**

At the time the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, there was no inkling of a global pandemic that would occur five years later to disrupt the progress and slow the attainment of the SDGs. The novel virus posed a significant health threat as millions of lives were lost and health services disrupted. The educational sector was not spared as academic activities were halted to limit the spread of the virus.

Accelerating the recovery from the pandemic requires great effort from all stakeholders beyond the health sector as the crisis presents an opportunity for change and innovation. The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels is essential to building a more equitable world.

As an NGO focusing on the empowerment of the girl child and women through education in vocational and leadership skills, we are leveraging the power of collaboration and partnership - SDG 17- Partnerships for the Goals to recover lost grounds and make progress in our work. We believe that meaningful collaboration will strengthen our work and foster the implementation of the agenda for sustainable development.

During the pandemic, one of our projects, Wavecrest College of Hospitality, Lagos, received support to continue training through e-learning. This approach has been productive till date as the College now offers an online diploma in Hospitality Management for Hospitality industry practitioners due to the partnership developed with the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality (CTH) and UK Institute of Hospitality.

Between 2019 and 2021, we partnered with ELIS (an Italian NGO) to execute the ForSUD project across five states in Nigeria developing the girl child and those at risk of being trafficked. With this partnership, about seven hundred young girls received various forms of skills in Catering services, Hotel services, Agri-food production, processing and marketing. In 2022, we developed a new partnership with ARISE Foundation to provide mentoring, catering and entrepreneurial skills to female returnee migrants. With this ongoing project, we have trained twenty eight persons and are targeting more training to reach more people. With active partnership and support we are pushing the attainment of SDG 17 and contributing to achieving other SDGs such as SDG 4, 5, 8 and 10.

To accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend the investment and digitalization in vocational education, training and entrepreneurship for young women, particularly in low-income communities, to provide them with skills and resources to build their own businesses and contribute to their local economy. Through strong partnership between the government, private and nonprofit sectors, we can build a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future for young women in Nigeria and beyond.

### **99. World Muslim Congress**

The World Muslim Congress (WMC) is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the ECOSOC High-level Segment for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. We stand in solidarity with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and support their mission to advance sustainable development and accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a global organization of Muslims, we recognise the impact of the pandemic on the world and particularly on communities in developing countries. The pandemic has exacerbated poverty, hunger,

and inequality, and has had a disproportionate effect on marginalised communities. We urge the international community to prioritise the needs of these communities in their response to the pandemic and ensure equitable distribution of resources.

Furthermore, we believe that the pandemic presents an opportunity to rethink our economic systems and prioritise the well-being of people and the planet. The current global economic system promotes unsustainable consumption patterns and exacerbates environmental degradation. We call on governments to shift towards a sustainable and equitable economic system that prioritises the needs and rights of all people, particularly the most vulnerable.

The WMC supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We particularly emphasize the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, protect human rights and ensure access to justice for all. In this regard, we call on governments to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue as a means to foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

Finally, we urge the international community to acknowledge the significant contributions of those organisations that have advanced sustainable development, promoted social justice, interfaith harmony, and peaceful coexistence. We call on the UN to recognise and support the important work of these organisations.

In conclusion, the WMC is committed to advancing sustainable development and promoting peace and justice for all. We stand with the international community in our efforts to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We thank the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs for providing a platform for NGOs to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

### **100. World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises**

#### Introduction

The World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises pursues the aim of representing and supporting the interests of MSMEs and Crafts with particular attention to countries with less developed economies and female entrepreneurship.

MSMEs are the backbone of many economies, providing employment opportunities, driving innovation and creativity and generating wealth and income for individuals and communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound negative impact on most MSMEs around the world.

As we continue to navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, it is critical that we accelerate our efforts towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### Support to MSMEs

MSMEs are to lead the necessary economic recovery and transformation.

It is important to emphasize their role through public and private sector's policies and initiatives such as:

I. to adopt MSME-friendly policies;

II. to promote access to finance and facilitate ESG investments;

III. to accelerate the energy transition at all levels;

IV. to pay attention to the expected scarcity of natural resources such as water, especially in the most vulnerable countries;

V. to promote education, training and the integration of innovations;

VI. to foster collaborations and partnerships.

### Female entrepreneurship

Female Entrepreneurship can be the means to achieve economic independence and social empowerment.

In developing countries, there are challenges for women's SMEs: limited assistance from the public and private sectors, limited access to finance and lack of technology.

If we are to be instrumental in accelerating recovery, we need to offer a system-level solution as well as field assistance. Women are still marginalized on all fronts: financial, technical and social when they become Entrepreneurs.

### Conclusion

WUSME has repeatedly recalled the important role played by MSMEs and Crafts with particular attention to youth and women and continues emphasizing how essential it is to improve access to finance.

WUSME proposes a platform for developed countries to share their best practices with developing countries.

It is also essential that MSMEs Associations, together with institutions, continue organizing MSMEs conferences at continental level.

As female entrepreneurship is concerned, WUSME advises to:

I. start a special programme to enable connection with livelihoods after skill development, create market linkages using digital means as well as boost trade and share business opportunities;

II. support the development of a database;

III. promote a platform exclusive for this sector comprising Associations, CSOs and other stakeholders.

In conclusion, the current global scenario demands a collaborative effort to accelerate the recovery of MSMEs and achieve the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030, sharing their best practices regarding the MSMEs ecosystem to develop an inclusive and enabling environment.

## **101. World Youth Alliance**

The World Youth Alliance is a global coalition of young people dedicated to promoting the dignity of the human person in policy and culture and committed to building solidarity between young people of developing and developed countries. The World Youth Alliance is passionate about promoting person-

centered solutions to the world's problems and challenges, including accelerating recovery from COVID-19 with the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Every human being has human dignity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that we should “act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood” (Art. 1). It is the intrinsic worth of the human person that provides the basis on which to find policies and laws that create conditions under which humans can prosper.

The importance of inclusive development that provides not just equitable economic growth, but also sustainable and judicious use of the planet's natural resources, has perhaps never been more in focus than now. This necessitates a renewed focus on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This work requires respect for human dignity, which is at the foundation of the three pillars of development: economic development, social development, and environmental protection.

All these efforts rely on the greatest resource we have: people. Human beings possess the creativity and skill to be problem-solvers. To realize this, quality education that includes teaching the importance of human dignity must be available to all on an equal basis and should flow from an authentic understanding of the human person, and foster respect for self and others in solidarity. Youth who understand human dignity are able to make responsible decisions and contribute to their communities, including treating others with respect. This basic understanding fosters sustainable development.

The World Youth Alliance has created a curriculum that teaches core ideas that support children in all aspects of their studies, focusing on self-understanding and personal development. This Human Dignity Curriculum inspires long-term goals, leads to excellent and healthy decision-making, and emphasizes that “action” follows “being.” It teaches children to use their freedom and creativity to initiate positive change in their lives and communities.

Our work to implement the Human Dignity Curriculum around the world relies on a vast network of partnerships, furthering the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 17. The curriculum has been adopted by private and public schools, after-school programs, churches, rehabilitation centers, and even by individual households, and is forming resilient children on every continent.

The World Youth Alliance believes that human dignity education is at the core of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Our organization is committed to working with member states to share our successes and thus boost global efforts towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **102. Youth Path Organisation**

Youth-led Solutions for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Management in Ghana's COVID-19 Recovery

As the world continues to grapple with the devastating impacts of COVID-19, it has become increasingly clear that youth-led solutions are vital for achieving sustainable water and sanitation management. Youth Path Organisation, a youth-led nongovernmental organisation that works with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to increase youth representation in policy making calls on governments to empower young people to play an active role in shaping water and sanitation policies and practices. By doing so, young people can address immediate challenges related to COVID-19 and pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future that prioritises access to clean water and sanitation for all.

Safe water and sanitation are crucial for COVID-19 recovery. Inadequate infrastructure, governance, financing, and youth engagement have exacerbated the situation in Ghana. As a youth-led organisation, we prioritise engaging young people, especially women, and persons with disabilities, in addressing these challenges for enhanced COVID-19 recovery. To address these challenges, accelerate COVID-19 recovery, and fully implement sustainable development in the context of Ghana, we propose five calls to action and policy recommendations.

Firstly, there is a need to increase investment in water and sanitation infrastructure, targeting marginalised communities to ensure equitable access to water services for all. Secondly, governments should support and encourage youth-led solutions to drive sustainable water and sanitation management. Thirdly, transparency and accountability in governance should be strengthened to ensure the effective and efficient use and access to safe and reliable water and sanitation services for everyone. Fourthly, mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in all water and sanitation interventions, addressing challenges faced by vulnerable groups to ensure the needs and rights of all individuals are addressed. Finally, building and strengthening partnerships among multiple stakeholders to ensure knowledge sharing, capacity building, and inclusivity.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an opportunity for member states to accelerate the full implementation of sustainable development and build resilience to future crises. We call on governments to prioritise water and sanitation, and the well-being of their citizens, create inclusive economies and address the environmental crisis to ensure that the recovery from the pandemic is sustainable, equitable, and leaves no one behind. Prioritising the implementation of sustainable development at all levels requires a global effort, with the active participation of governments, civil society, youth-led organisations, and private sectors.

### **103. Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations**

#### **What We Do in Post-COVID Era**

In the first place, please allow us to introduce our organization. We are Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations, a national 5A non-profit organization, which is composed of NGOs, private non-enterprise organizations in Zhongguancun Science Park, China's Silicon Valley.

Since our establishment, we have made ourselves a good use of bridge structure and platform, motivating integral development and establishing the brand. We absorb nearly 200 NGOs as well as more than 100 thousand influential high-tech enterprises. Before COVID-19, we consistently launched our brand events, developing online and offline enterprise service platforms, covering millions of people.

Without doubt, COVID-19 have had a large impact on everyone's life. Our paces of domestic and international communication and cooperation slowed down. The situation made us have to implement part of our work online. "ChuangFuTong", a mobile phone application, was developed as a non-profit online platform, which maintained our contact with our members and partners.

At present, post-COVID era, together with our members, we have re-strengthened our connection with the hi-tech enterprises, and also the whole world. Under the joint efforts of us and our members, there has been some progress made in sustainable development.

For environmental protection, one of our members, Zhongguancun Institute of Human Settlements Engineering and Materials has launched the research of new environment-friendly material being used on decorating boards on external wall of buildings. Also, they are leading to develop the industrial standard of the material.

In the area of climate change, another member, China Meteorological Service Association held the Meteorological Industry Development Conference and "Natural Oxygen Bar" event in recent years, which attracted a great deal of attention on the current climate.

For health and medicine, Beijing Pharmaceutical Profession Association erected the regional construction of life and health clusters in China, focusing the development of new medicine as well as the advancement of clinical researches.

In terms of gender equality, Beijing International Exchange Association set up the project of Women's Science and Technology Talent Capacity Building Center. The project is committed to create a global collaborative network of female tech talents, which is supported by various themed events.

Moreover, along with our liaison branch offices in Germany and Korea, we keep accelerating our steps of expanding oversea cooperation.

The global development is recovering. Through our work, connection and platforms, we will continuously give suggestions, make strategies and create opportunities to our members, making more people recognize the importance of sustainable development.