

**STATEMENT OF ECUADOR
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT 2021**

New York, 15 July 2021

Mr. President,

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development continues to be the main platform to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We welcome the knowledge and experiences shared by all participants during the past two weeks.

We commend the 42 countries that presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during the HLPF 2021. Ecuador has presented twice its VNR, in 2018 and 2020. We are aware of the efforts required and recognize the importance of such a meaningful document to generate consciousness and involve all sectors of society.

Ecuador remains committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions -economic, social and environmental-, and to “building back better” from the COVID-19 pandemic. At this moment, equitable access to safe and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and medicines, is essential, especially for developing countries. Also, Middle-Income Countries must be considered eligible for recovery programs, as they face high levels of indebtedness, limited fiscal space, and require international support and solidarity.

With regards to this year’s discussions at the HPLF, we note with concern that the SDG targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved, and in this regard call upon the international community to reinforce actions to address those specific challenges, including to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage youth, and enhance financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries.

As the HLPF 2021 reviews in-depth SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, we restate that poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, remains the world's greatest challenge, and it must be understood not only as the lack of monetary resources, but of a set of deprivations that people face in the enjoyment of their rights.

To address the rise of global hunger, we must safeguard food supply-chains, reduce food loss and waste, and ensure access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food for all. We are committed to healthy lives and promote well-being for all, including adequate physical and mental health, strong health systems, and the availability of water and sanitation for all.

Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth must consider safe working environments, increased productivity, investments in STI, entrepreneurship and creativity, protection of labor rights, and reducing the digital divide. Inequality within and among countries must be reduced, racism and all forms of discrimination eliminated, and diversity and the voices of people in vulnerable situations considered. We remain committed to ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns, and that people everywhere have relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our times and the UNFCCC the primary forum for negotiating its global response. The implementation of commitments must consider the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, as well as enhanced financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries. We are concerned that the commitment by developed countries to jointly mobilize US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020 has not been met and call on developed countries to honor their commitment.

Our efforts continue so we can achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, prevent crimes and corruption, and ensure justice and the rule of law. Means of implementation and global partnerships are crucial to achieve sustainable development.

We are determined to continue working with all countries and relevant stakeholders, for a prosperous and peaceful future, for people and planet.

Thank you, Mr. President.