Comments from the Women’s Major Group

Suggested additions **bolded, underlined, and highlighted**

Suggested deletions ~~struck through~~

Draft - Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC High Level Segment

"*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*"

“*Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges*”

We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

*[Introduction and framing]*

1. Reaffirm our commitment to effectively realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind. We stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centered, planet sensitive, universal and transformative and that its Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and balances the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental. We reaffirm all the principles recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We welcome efforts at all levels to implement the 2030 Agenda and recognize that after almost two years of implementation our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. We acknowledge, at the same time, that the pace of implementation must be accelerated as the tasks facing us are urgent, and that action is imperative for securing our objectives for people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership;
2. Recognize that eradicating poverty requires transformative efforts, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. People who are vulnerable must be empowered, including all children, adolescents, youth, **girls,** persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, **fisherfolk, people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics,** refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and peoples living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism and conflict. We stress that collective action can promote policy integration, facilitate inclusive partnerships and provide support for poverty eradication;

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| **Comments:**  We support the expansion of the original listing from paragraph 23 of the 2030 Agenda to include people living in conflict. This small expansion is an important recognition and acknowledgment of the changes that have taken place since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In line with recognition of these changes, we also recommend the inclusion of fisherfolk, especially following the Oceans Conference and SDG 14 being reviewed this year, girls, and people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics. |

1. Highlight in this regard the need to end poverty, hunger and ill health everywhere; establish the conditions to maintain this outcome across generations; combat inequalities within and among countries; and heal and secure our planet. We emphasize our commitment to a world in which every country enjoys inclusive and sustainable economic growth, leading to decent work for all. We will protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change. We will also foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the 2030 Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a**n active** role in peacebuilding and State-building. We call for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment;

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| **Comments:**  Strongly support the recognition of the importance of women’s participation in peacebuilding efforts. This should be retained and strengthened with the above addition. It is not enough for women to be just at the table - they must have an active part in shaping the outcome. Also, strongly support the references to illicit financial and arms flows as these are key issues to not only gender equality, but to the entire implementation of the 2030 Agenda. |

1. Commit to a world in which **women and girls in all their diversity** ~~every woman and girl~~ enjoy~~s~~ full gender equality, **their human rights are guaranteed and respected** and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. The feminization of poverty persists, and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women’s economic empowerment and sustainable development. We stress the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality, **including in education and the workplace,** the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty. We also stress the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the life cycle, including through social protection systems;

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| **Comments:**  Strongly support this strengthened paragraph with above additions and its placement towards the beginning of the document, which accurately reflects the importance of gender as a cross-cutting issue.  Education of girls is strongly linked to poverty reduction and improved health outcomes as well as economic indicators at the individual and national levels, and as such is critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda. Highlighting education and the workplace in this document also underlines the integrated and interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda even though Goals 4 and 8 are not under review this year. |

1. Recognize children, adolescents and youth**, especially girls,** as important agents of change and underline the necessity of **respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights and** investing in them and protecting them from violence and coercion with a view to addressing multidimensional deprivations, ending intergenerational poverty, and empowering them to build a more prosperous future. We call on all Member States to ensure that youth education, skill development and employment are at the center of our priorities to enable them to fulfil their potential as active members of society. We also commit to include youth and children’s perspectives in the development and assessment of strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs and underscore the importance of supporting young people’s full participation in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda;

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| **Comments:**  Support this paragraph that recognizes the critical role young people play as agents of change. Suggest a stronger human rights framing in order to strengthen the connection between human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is missing from the current Ministerial Declaration, and take a rights-based rather than instrumentalist approach to young people.  Unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms view women and girls as subordinate to men and boys and often subordinate girls to women. This dynamic plays out also in use of collective terms such as youth and adolescents unless we name girls explicitly. |

1. Commit to embrace diversity **in all its forms**, to strengthen social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, inclusion, identity, safety, and the dignity **and human rights** of all people, and to take steps to ensure that institutions at all levels promote pluralism and peaceful co-existence within increasingly heterogeneous and multi-cultural societies in our effort to leave no one behind;

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| **Comments:**  The recognition of the multiple forms of diversity is important to the 2030 Agenda’s promise to leave no one behind. The human rights framing needs to be strengthened throughout the Ministerial Declaration in order to reflect accurately the 2030 Agenda’s grounding in the human rights framework. |

1. Recognize that delivering on the 2030 Agenda means addressing complex policy interlinkages and building synergies across all dimensions of sustainable development. We underline that policy integration and coherence requires engagement **and meaningful participation** by all stakeholders and that it is key to unlocking opportunities for poverty eradication at all levels;

*[SDGs under review, as well as SDG 17]*

1. Note with appreciation the Report of the Secretary General on the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides an evidence base for our review. We acknowledge that while global progress is evident in many cases, it is uneven across countries and regions and also insufficient across many targets and indicators;
2. Reiterate that the integrated and unified nature of the Sustainable Development Goals makes it essential that we pay particular attention towards leveraging synergies and co-benefits, while avoiding or minimising trade-offs. The indivisible and interlinked nature of the goals and targets guides and informs the in-depth review by the High Level Political Forum;
3. [SDG1] Acknowledge that while extreme poverty has fallen globally, progress has been uneven, and 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty.We are still far from implementing social protection measures for all – only one in five receive any kind of benefit in low income countries and two in three in upper-middle-income countries.There are poor people in every part of the world, but disproportionately concentrated in rural areas; and in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, in both LDCs and MICs. With many overlapping deprivations, children and young persons are especially at risk of being trapped in intergenerational cycles of poverty. We urge that countries, in the context of their own national plans and programmes, include measures that will amplify the poverty eradicating impact of actions taken to achieve other Sustainable Development Goals, identify populations most at risk of remaining in or falling back into poverty and place special focus on reaching them; and develop appropriate mechanisms to strengthen institutions serving those affected by conflict, fragility and forced displacement. We stress the importance of taking **comprehensive** ~~targeted~~ measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

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| **Comments:**  Support this strengthened paragraph on SDG 1, especially the recognition of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Given the multidimensional nature of poverty, we need comprehensive measures, not simply targeted ones. |

1. [SDG2] Note with concern that an estimated 793 million people are still undernourished globally, and 155 million children are stunted, and other forms of malnutrition are rising. Climate change and unsustainable agricultural practices are increasing the vulnerability of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, to extreme weather events. Resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect natural resources, sustain rural and urban livelihoods, and provide access to nutritious foods from smallholder producers, must be at the heart of efforts to simultaneously eradicate poverty and hunger, ensure adequate nutrition and promote prosperity. Climate adaptation measures involving responsible investments in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries can have positive impacts. Coherent policies and accountable institutions that respect tenure rights and prioritize women’s empowerment and gender equality are imperative. We need to urgently and effectively respond to rising crises and emergency levels of food insecurity now affecting millions of people, especially for those people that are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine;

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| **Comments:**  Support this strengthened paragraph on SDG 2, especially the recognition of tenure rights and women’s empowerment and gender equality. It is crucial to retain this reference. |

1. [SDG3] Emphasizethat investment in health contributes to reducing inequality, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and to the eradication of poverty and hunger. We recognize that while impressive advancements have been made on many fronts, progress must be accelerated to achieve the health related goals and targets. We are concerned that major challenges remain on many fronts, including universal access to quality health care, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and promoting mental health. We must step up our efforts to combat communicable diseases where achievements are gravely challenged, inter alia, by antimicrobial resistance. We must also act to address the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development in all countries. We must strengthen our preparedness to respond to epidemic outbreaks. We highlight the importance of strengthening inclusive health systems and promoting investment in scientific research and innovation to meet the health challenges of today and tomorrow;

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| **Comments:**  Support this strengthened paragraph on SDG 3. The recognition of the targets that face the biggest challenges - universal access to health care, sexual and reproductive health services, and mental health - is important to retain. |

1. [SDG5] Recognize and are **deeply** concernedthat gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities. Violence against women and girls in private and public spaces is a persistent challenge that no country has managed to eliminate. There are mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty. Stepped up efforts are required to ensure women’s full, equal and effective participation and leadership at all levels, in all areas, and in all efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty, ~~and~~ promoting prosperity, **and achieving sustainable development**. We reiterate the urgency of addressing structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, such as discriminatory laws and policies, **violations of women’s human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights,** gender stereotypes, harmful practices and negative social norms and attitudes. In this regard, we also recognize the special challenges of women and girls with disabilities who often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Action is needed to address gender pay gaps, which remain pervasive across regions and sectors, **as well as the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by women and girls.** We also underscore that all other Sustainable Development Goals need to be implemented in a manner that delivers results for women and girls. We urge that countries fully integrate gender equality strategies into national sustainable development frameworks **in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** so as to promote greater policy coherence. **We will work for a significant increase in investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and strengthen support for institutions at the global, regional and national levels**;

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| **Comments:**  Strongly support this strengthened paragraph on gender equality with the above additions. It is especially relevant that this year’s Ministerial Declaration discusses unpaid care and domestic work given the Agreed Conclusions from this year’s Commission on the Status of Women that recognized that domestic and care work is essential for development and that the “uneven distribution of responsibilities is a significant constraint on women’s and girls’ completion of or progress in education, on women’s entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, and can result in gaps in both social protection and pensions” (E/CN.6/2017/L.5 paragraphs 16 and 30).  References to Beijing and CEDAW are particularly relevant here given their recognition in the 2030 Agenda as foundational and their continued relevance to ensuring gender equality.  References to increased investment to close resource gaps is based on CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2017/L.5 paragraph 18) and the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1 paragraph 20). |

1. [SDG9] Emphasize that infrastructure, industry, and innovation are strongly connected and share the common goal of achieving socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication. We underline that poor access to infrastructure, notably for transportation, electricity and energy more generally, ICTs and marketing, remains a major impediment to development, diversification, and value addition in many parts of the world. Effective solutions to achieve resilient and accessible infrastructure development include stronger coordinated partnerships at all levels, as well as development of risk mitigation measures and expertise. We recognize that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is integral for the structural transformation of economies in order to create decent jobs, promote productivity growth, **realize women’s equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence,** enhance incomes and achieve sustainable development. We highlight the importance of innovation-driven development and the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises so as to increase employment in all sectors;

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| **Comments:**  Additions from CSW61 (E/CN.6/2017/L.5) paragraph 29. |

1. [SDG14] Possess a strong conviction that our ocean is critical to our shared future and common humanity in all its diversity. It contributes to sustainable development and sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, maritime trade and transportation, decent work and livelihoods. We are alarmed by the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and sea-level rise as well as by the threats caused by marine- and land-based activities. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We welcome the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support Implementation of SDG14. We call on all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development by urgently undertaking, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the "Call for Action" adopted during that Conference and by implementing voluntary commitments pledged during the Conference;
2. [SDG17] Recognize that despite some positive developments, a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. That effort will require coherent policies and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors. We emphasize that the scale and level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda require strengthening and promoting effective**, meaningful,**  and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, ~~including public-private partnerships~~, by enhancing engagement of governments with global, regional and sub-regional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, donor community, non-governmental organizations, community groups, **feminist and women’s organizations, youth- and girl-led organisations,** academic institutions, and other relevant actors. We stress that strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships that are cross-sectoral and effectively integrated, while being aligned with United Nations values and complementary to national efforts, are instrumental for contributing to achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and the related Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, we encourage the UN system to enhance its collaboration with partners, and to share knowledge and best practices in partnership approaches, **including through information gathering from non-state actors, especially civil society and grassroots organizations,** with a view to improving transparency, coherence, due diligence, accountability and impact;

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| **Comments:**  Gathering additional information from shadow reports has proven to be effective and useful in other United Nations contexts, whether in expert committee bodies such as CEDAW, or in intergovernmental review mechanisms such as the UPR. Given that the SDGs are so ambitious and holistic, these alternative information can be very useful in reviews at all levels, but especially national and local level of implementation of the SDGs. |

*[Means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology, and innovation]*

1. Reiterate that the required revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development should facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals. We are fully committed to realizing this aim, working together with all stakeholders. International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources **and acting as catalyst in middle-income countries.** We note, in this regard, the increase in blended finance strategies through partnerships with the private sector, aimed at scaling up the amount of capital that can be mobilized to support public investment projects. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and, in this regard, we welcome the holding of the second ECOSOC forum on financing for development, and take into account its inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

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| **Comments:**  Many middle-income countries are transitioning from donor funding to domestic resources, responsible transition policies should be put in place to avoid disruption of critical services. |

1. Emphasize that harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels is essential to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We also emphasize that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy. In this regard, we welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and also welcome the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and encourage continued support. We urge strengthened dialogue between stakeholders and Governments and the promotion of an environment conducive to sharing and exchanging ideas and success stories and catalysing new initiatives and partnerships. We recognize that the creation, development and diffusion of innovations and new technologies and associated know-how are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. We acknowledge both the transformative and disruptive potential of new technologies, particularly advances in automation, on our labour markets and on the jobs of the future and, in this regard, seek to prepare our societies and economies for these effects;

*[Countries in special situations]*

1. Reiterate that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Common challenges across LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS include structural rigidities, levels of indebtedness, low share of global trade, remoteness, poor infrastructure development, low productivity, jobless growth, and limited resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks including the impact of climate change, desertification and land degradation. There are also serious developmental challenges faced by many middle-income countries;

*[Follow-up and review]*

1. Welcome the appointment of the 15 eminent scientists who will draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report which will inform the 2019 High-Level Political Forum and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels;
2. Commend the 44 countries that conducted Voluntary National Reviews at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum. They have shared valuable lessons learned, as well as challenges encountered. We are encouraged that the reviews provide examples of effective involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders in their Voluntary National Review processes, both in the preparations and in their presentations. We acknowledge that countries have established a range of mechanisms to facilitate coordination, including as cross-sectoral government working groups, multi-stakeholder committees, and high-level coordinators. We note that the Voluntary National Reviews highlight the importance of support and leadership at the highest level, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans and strategies, and the importance of the involvement of local authorities. We stress the importance of building national capacities for follow-up and review, and the usefulness of making assistance available for preparing for the Voluntary National Reviews. We encourage all Member States to make best use of the lessons learnt from the review process to enhance their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to consider presenting Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum;

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| **Comments:**  Support the new language on involvement of stakeholders in the preparation and presentations and strongly encourage its retention. |

1. Welcome the various inputs to the High-Level Political Forum from the ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, as well as the major groups and other stakeholders, which provide important expert knowledge on this year’s theme as well as the goals under review;

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| **Comments:**  Strongly support the new reference to the major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS). It is critical to retain this reference. |

1. Also welcome the inputs from the 2017 regional forums for sustainable development which provide useful opportunities for regional cooperation and peer learning, reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion among a variety of stakeholders. We acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invite the United Nations regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the High-Level Political Forum including with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and other regional and sub-regional forums, as appropriate;
2. Stress that climate change presents the single biggest threat to development, and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. We welcome the Paris Agreement, and its early entry into force, encourage all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible. We recognize the need for an effective**, gender-responsive** and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available science. We acknowledge the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience. We stress the importance of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones. We highlight the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change**, and the disproportionate impacts of climate change and other environmental issues on women and girls**. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. We underline the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, in order to minimize the consequences of disasters;

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| **Comments:**  Additions based on CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2017/L.5) paragraphs 14 and 23(l) recognizing the gendered dimension of climate change and disasters. Support this strengthened paragraph on climate change. Just as the paragraph recognizes that not all countries face the same risks from climate change, it is important to recognize that not all people within the a given country face the same risks. See UN Women’s recent work on gender and disasters:<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2016/fpi%20brief-gir_v2.pdf?vs=2816> and<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/compilation-women-in-disaster-risk-reduction>. |

1. Stress the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. We acknowledge that the Voluntary National Reviews reflect this as a persistent challenge and we invite countries to further strengthen collaboration at bilateral, regional and global levels for capacity building and sharing of best practices in this regard. Additionally, we note the importance of data-driven decision making, innovation, including innovation **in data collection to reveal inter-country, intra-country and intra-household inequality**, and the need to build capacity for producing, analysing and using various forms of data, both quantitative and qualitative, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the Global Indicator Framework that has been agreed by the Statistical Commission and look forward to its implementation and continual improvement in an inclusive manner;

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| **Comments:**  Strongly support the reference to qualitative data given its important role in helping us understand the programs and policies that are needed to reach the furthest behind.  Language on data which reveals inequalities should point to three different types of inequalities:  • Inter-country (for example, Goal 10 and Goal 12)  • Intra-country (All Goals)  • Intra-household (for example, Goal 1, Goal 2, 3, 5)  The CSW Agreed Conclusions 2017 addressed the question of intra-household poverty, which the IWDA/ANU/DFAT Individual Deprivation Measure (a new multi-dimensional measure of poverty) with the following language: “income and asset distribution within households” (para 40.ii, CSW 61 Agreed Conclusions)  The G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment has a very clear directive that the G7 “develop a new gender-sensitive and multidimensional analysis of poverty….Acknowledging that a gender-sensitive multidimensional poverty measure could provide a valuable contribution to gender statistics in G7 countries by highlighting the interlinkages between gender and poverty, empowerment and inequality, and by spotlighting the main reasons for poverty and social exclusion” – they commit to bring together experts to discuss a possible conceptual framework during 2017 to present first results in 2018. |

1. Highlight the importance of localizing and communicating the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, from the national discussions to the community and grassroots level. In this vein, there can be no effective implementation where no awareness exists, and efforts should be made to reach out to all stakeholders, including local authorities, indigenous peoples, **young people,** civil society, **grassroots,** business, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, and the scientific and academic community;

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| **Comments:**  In the context of localizing and raising awareness of the SDGs young people and grassroot organizations are critical partners given that they can reach and engage audiences that other groups cannot. |

1. Recognize the role of the United Nations system in supporting countries in their efforts to implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we note the importance of repositioning the United Nations so that it is fit for purpose, and encourage the UN development system to improve its collective support for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. We take note of the Secretary-General’s recommendations to address gaps and overlaps, as well as to improve the accountability, transparency, coordination and oversight of the system. We look forward to the Secretary-General’s further options and proposals by the end of the year;
2. Pledge to continued inclusive and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to take bold and transformative steps to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, reaching the furthest behind first and ensuring that no one is left behind.