

Draft Talking points for the May 20 Interactive Dialogue with Major Groups

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PLEASE FIND BELOW ELEMENTS TO BE POSSIBLY INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TEXT BELOW ONLY OFFERS SOME INITIAL CONCEPTS. ONCE WE AGREE ON THE CONCEPTS, WILL SHARE THE PROPOSED DRAFT STATEMENT FOR FINAL REVIEW.

- **Citizen’s agency and participation at all levels is the soul of the follow-up and review process** and should therefore be the driving principle of its design. The process so far has placed significant emphasis on data. While civil society has historically championed the collection and use of data to review development outcomes and advocate for policy changes, it is essential to recognize that qualitative and disaggregated data, while essential, is not the only path to knowledge. Data should not become a substitute for the direct participation of citizens, particularly those most affected by development challenges. The cornerstone of this process is our recommendation that every country adopt a National Sustainable Development Strategy through a truly inclusive participatory process, and agree to a public, inclusive and participatory national review mechanism, led by a National Council for Sustainable Development;
- **We continue to be deeply concerned with the abuse and misuse of the “stakeholder” language** and its pretence to domesticate and reconcile the difference between private and public interests. We therefore urge that the follow-up and review process responds to right-holders rather than stakeholders, and the public policy space be enhanced and protected by robust safeguards against conflict of interest and stringent *ex-ante* criteria to establish the legitimacy of any private-interest driven actors to participate in the process.
- **Despite the ambition of our aspirations, the just concluded FfD consultations exposed limited political will to generate the means – financial and non – to bridge rhetoric and reality.** This further highlight the already critical importance of the removal of the structural

barriers to the socio-economic transformation of developing countries through a development-led reform of the economic, trade, monetary and financial systems. It is therefore essential to support the integrated HLPF-centred monitoring and accountability process with an intergovernmental FfD follow-up mechanism that can advance the normative process that such a re-architecture of economic governance requires in order to shift its centre of gravity under a democratic and participative UN-centred process.