

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Today, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are in peril.

We know where we need to be, and how we need to progress. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our Blueprint. What we lack is the political will and the commitment to multilateralism.

We gather here today, to commit to fifty-six multilateral solutions that address the needs of our people – both now and in generations to come. 'The Pact for the Future' is our

Declaration for Future Generations – despite shortcomings in substance. We will gear our national digital development strategies around the commitments under the five objectives of the Global Digital Compact to augment the delivery of the SDGs.

With this positive hope, let us highlight the issues that could have made this pact more inclusive and meaningful.

Mr. President,

If we are to seek multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow, we recognize that all three pillars of the UN should be equally strengthened.

Sri Lanka is concerned about the growing SDG financing gap. We welcome the Secretary-General's proposal for an SDG Stimulus to mobilize resources and encourage developed nations to meet their Official Development Assistance commitments. Having experienced a financial crisis ourselves, Sri Lanka calls for accelerated reform of the international financial architecture, to be more efficient and equitable to better respond to the challenges faced by the developing countries. We call for the UNSG, the IATF on Financing for Development and member states to review the sovereign debt architecture, and present reforms as we head to the 4th International Conference on FFD, next year.

The evolving global security landscape calls for a sincere commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, and to the foundational objectives of this organization. The various threats to peace and security, whether on land, at sea, in the air, outer space, or cyberspace, should be addressed through efforts to restore trust, strengthen solidarity, and enhance cooperation, in alignment with the recommendations of the New Agenda for Peace.

As we aspire the implementation of the Pact enhancing human rights, we should honour the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. We cannot turn a blind eye to serious and gross violations of human rights in one part of the world, while we call for human rights accountability in another. Multilateralism cannot be sustained on double standards.

Mr. President,

The fiscal impacts of various crises are triggering debt distress in many developing countries, including in Sri Lanka, limiting the ability to invest in recovery, the SDGs and in climate action.

The multilateral framework should seek actionable means to provide concessional financing for developing countries, to recapitalize Multilateral Development Banks and to accelerate

the timetable for replenishing the funds and provide long-term financing for investment in long-term growth.

Sri Lanka advocates for the promotion of debt swaps aimed at achieving the SDGs, including

In August this year, the Presidential Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations in Sri Lanka, co-hosted a national event in preparation for this Summit. As Sri Lanka looks towards stabilization, recovery and economic growth with equity and justice, our national event called for working towards a supportive international framework.

Sri Lanka seeks partnerships with international organizations and countries to support its development goals, particularly in areas such as climate finance and technology transfer. We are also exploring public-private partnerships to leverage private-sector investments in sustainable development projects, to bring about innovation to environmental initiatives.

We are convinced that continued focus on resilience, innovation, and community