

NGO MG Inputs to ‘Vision of Civil Society’ session at HLPF, 12 July 2022

Delivered by Oli Henman, Global Coordinator, Action for Sustainable Development

Thank you moderator. We appreciate the excellent panel and would like to reinforce some of the key recommendations from the NGO community.

Progress on the 2030 agenda is under threat. In 2022, we face massive challenges for people and our planet. Human rights are being ignored and millions of people are being left behind, while a few become ever richer and more powerful.

The war in Ukraine together with other ongoing conflicts has led to a massive increase in the number of people facing acute food insecurity, with rising food prices making life even harder for billions of people.

At the same time, climate change presents a long-term threat to our shared home on this earth, with temperatures continuing to rise and extreme weather events devastating communities at the frontlines.

The Covid-19 pandemic pushed humanity’s resilience to the limit and continues to have vast impacts on the lives of people and the wider social, economic and environmental fabric of our world. Hundreds of millions of people lost their jobs and income and were pushed into poverty.

These events have shone a glaring light on the persistent and underlying injustices and inequalities of our societies.

We need to transform a system that is no longer fit for purpose and re-imagine our planet as our shared home, respecting the rights of all people and the natural world.

*There is still time to deliver sustainable development within the Decade of Action... if leaders in each country act now **for Peace, Climate & Justice.***

1. Peace

Now is the time to step back from armed conflicts, militarism must be reduced around the world:

- **We call for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine – a ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces, and the phased removal of all sanctions according to an agreed timeline.**
- **We call for the same level of support to end all conflicts – and ensure financial support for displaced peoples and refugees.**
- **We further call for a global commitment from states to reduce military expenditures and to shift these funds to address the shortfall in financing for the achievement of Agenda 2030 commitments, such as on social protection and clean energy.**

2. Climate

We call for an end to the fossil fuel era – stop financing of coal by the end of 2022 and shift funding towards clean and green technologies, and fully address loss and damages from climate impacts.

- **Deliver the funding promised for climate finance for adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, including the unmet \$100 billion/year pledge.**
- **Protect the ecosystems on which all life depends by strengthening international environmental law and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030; and develop ecological strategy policies aligning with poverty alleviation, human rights, and fair economic policies.**

3. Social Justice

Poverty and inequality are once again on the rise in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In many countries, people are being pushed back into increasingly fragile situations, with the critical gaps in healthcare and loss of livelihoods being compounded by the lack of sufficient support from governments and international partners.

- **Put in place a 'Vaccines for all global roadmap', donor countries must agree to finalise a temporary waiver of intellectual property protections on all Covid-19 technologies in 2022.**
- **We call on all governments to ensure universal social protection for all.**
- **We further call for respect for fundamental rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- **Stop persecution of civil society activists and guarantee people's fundamental freedoms to speak out and assemble.**