

## HLPF SESSION “SDG 15 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Life on land” (9.10-12:00 PM)

11 July, 2022- 9:10 – 12:00 PM (EDT)

Intervention by Omar Faruk, Secretary General, Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU), on behalf of the Workers and Trade Unions Major Groups

### Intervention

Progress on SDG 15 has continued stalling since it was last reviewed. Increased deforestation, desertification and ecosystem degradation has also impacted job losses and increased levels of informality, leading to a growingly precarious situation for workers in related sectors.

Economic growth is currently pursued at the cost of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Unsustainable waste management practices are further impacting biodiversity and contributing to increased levels of informal employment. In order to preserve life on land, it is fundamental to decouple economic growth from environmental and ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, looking at the interlinkages between SDG 15 and SDG 8 on decent work and putting in place policies that preserve ecosystems and biodiversity while contributing to economic well-being.

We therefore call for:

- **Investments in decent climate friendly jobs** based on gender-responsive just transition measures, including job creation in ecosystem and biodiversity preservation and in sustainable agriculture.
- **Establishing public employment programmes** that promote green jobs through natural resource management, protection of terrestrial ecosystems and environmental rehabilitation.
- **Tackling plastic pollution** through an approach that recognises the importance of all workers in the life cycle of plastics and includes comprehensive just transition plans to deal with the impacts on workers in a fair way.
- **Updating curricula to centre climate issues** on all subjects and grades in order to **ensure that all students are climate literate** and have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to take climate action.
- **Implementing policies to support the formalisation of the informal economy** that will contribute to the formalisation of at least one billion people by 2030.

The UN Secretary-General’s initiative for a Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection calls for investments in the green economy that produce more and better jobs to help economies move towards more inclusive, resilient and sustainable models of growth. It calls for investments in sectors and industries that contribute to greening economies and mitigate biodiversity loss and desertification.

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