

Statement on Gambia VNR 2022,

Delivered by a representative of the Major Group for Children & Youth

Thank you, moderator,

We note with concern the growing food insecurity that has been highlighted in Gambia's VNR report and the inter-locking challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, leading to recurring extreme weather events.

In particular we are aware that droughts and erratic rainfall patterns spells are linked to significant crop failures, declining agricultural production and productivity affecting rural livelihood opportunities. We emphasise that the pressure on food security is being compounded by the rising food prices resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war and we deplore the rise in aggression around the world.

Given this context there is a real risk that the country falls short on Zero hunger, poverty reduction and tackling inequality.

How is your government working to put in place socio-economic policies that support those who are most likely to face increasing hardship due to climate change and wider instability?

What are the primary obstacles faced by your country in advancing progress towards sustainable development, including the necessary socio-economic transformation that is entailed with it? What global trade, monetary and financial impediments have you identified to the implementation of the SDG agenda? What global systemic reforms may help advance progress within your country?

Furthermore, what are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the populations that are often discriminated against such as women, young persons, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected states, among others, including intersectionalities of these? What are the specific actions you are undertaking to reduce identified inequality gaps and what is your plan towards 2030 to eradicate all forms of inequality?