

Statement on Guinea-Bissau VNR- Delivered by a representative of the Women's Major Group

Dear President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First off, we would like to greet the Government of Guinea-Bissau for submitting its first voluntary national revision to evaluate the progress in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. We also appreciate the Government's efforts in organizing public hearings in all the country, with the United Nations support, to understand the state of the implementation of SDG.

It is made clear, by the report presented, that the lack of data continues to pose a great obstacle in monitoring the implementation of the SDG. However, despite the lack of data, it is evident that Guinea-Bissau is far behind in compliance with the SDGs. The Covid-19 pandemic and chronic political instability are among the factors that aggravate the already fragile social economic state of the country.

The 2030 Agenda's promise is to leave no one behind. In Guinea-Bissau many are left behind. Women, children, people with disabilities, people that live in remote areas, and other groups still fight for access to basic services, such as health and education.

We would like to take this opportunity to urge the Government of Guinea-Bissau to commit to the following:

- Significantly increase the State budget allocations destined to education and health, making them a clear development priority;
- Fight corruption, which is diverting natural resources and international development aid, respecting the independence of the judicial system;
- Reaffirm its commitment with SDG 5 reviewing the parity law and adopting new legislation to ensure women's equal access to opportunities and right to participate;
- Hold inclusive, free, fair and transparent elections;
- Commit, in the period after elections, to dialogue with all stakeholders, to reach the so-desired political stability;
- Establish an SDG monitoring mechanism, as recommended in the report, with participation of civil society organizations;
- Commit to an inclusive and participatory process to review the implementation of the National Development Plan.

Thank you.