

Statement on Sao Tome & Principe VNR 2022, delivered by a representative of the Women's Major Group

Thank you moderator,

We recognize the situation that Sao Tome & Principe is positioned as a Small Island State and that it therefore faces particular pressures from climate change, including major impacts of increased tropical storms and the risk of coastal erosion and sea level rise leading to a loss of livelihoods and a reduction in livable lands. We note the further impacts of deforestation, intense and uncontrolled rainfall, floods, and landslides, which have a massive impact on food crops production and exports.

We would therefore like to ask what more can be done by the Government of Sao Tome & Principe to combat climate change and to ensure a more sustainable model of development?

What would be the expectations of Sao Tome & Principe in terms of the international community's response to these increasing crises? How could international funding be better utilised to support those who are most affected by climate change?

How can international partners, including civil society organisations play a useful role as partners to local communities to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change?

Furthermore, what modalities did your government adopt to ensure meaningful participation of rightsholder groups, such as women and young people, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR? What citizen-led engagement strategies have occurred to contribute to the national review process? What plans does your government have to follow- up the presentation of the VNR at national and subnational levels after the HLPF?