

MGOS Draft Statement 2021

The Government of Zimbabwe has made considerable progress in including stakeholders in developing the 2021 VNR and the NDS1. We urge the Government to follow through by adequately resourcing these commitments through national budget support to ensure a human-centred COVID-19 recovery.

We are concerned about growing inequalities in the country induced by recent neoliberal austerity measures, illicit financial flows and the COVID-19 pandemic: inequalities in wage and income, gender and access to essential services (health, education, water and sanitation). Such disparities are at odds with the SDGs.

Two other critical issues of concern are health and agriculture. Our health workers need additional remuneration; to allow the country to curb brain drain. Many of our people live in resettlement areas and, agriculture is their livelihood. In this regard, we call for transparency in agricultural financing to enable equitable access and increase farmers' incomes. We call upon the Government to consider water harvesting and environmentally friendly ways of controlling pests to mitigate the effects of climate change droughts and pestilence.

In view of the highlighted, we recommend the Government to; (i) ensure the newly legislated Tripartite Negotiating Forum plays its role to facilitate effective implementation of the SDGs. (ii) implement inclusive mechanisms to ensure a sustained, conscious and continuous dialogue where SDGs take priority beyond the HLPF.

As such, we are calling for increased budgetary provisions for socio-economic rights in line with the SDGs, benchmarking social protection support to the Food Poverty Line and transforming the temporary COVID-19 social protection measures into sustainable mechanisms. Investing more in employment-intensive programmes and formalising the informal economy in a socially inclusive manner. Ensuring that the targeted interventions benefit the vulnerable populations (children, youth, women and people with disabilities) will contribute to eradicating all forms of inequality and meeting the country's Vision 2030.