



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

Ambassador Michael Gerber

New York, 10 – 19 July, 2017

18.07.2017 – Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: High-level consultation on the roadmap for delivering the SDG targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Swiss Government – and in my today's role as the moderator – let me also cordially **welcome** you to this High-Level Consultation, which is – as you have just heard from our co-conveners – about ***how to get to more peaceful, just and inclusive societies***, based on a **Roadmap** we would herewith like to consult with you. It could not be more timely than today marking the Nelson Mandela International Day.

But before starting, I would like to express my gratitude to our co-conveners, the Governments of **Brazil** and **Sierra Leone**, as well as the **New York University's Center for International Cooperation (CIC)**. Without you and the excellent, substantive work of the CIC, we would not be here today.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The 2030 Agenda calls for nothing less than a “**transformation of the world**”. By adopting the 2030 Agenda, we thus made a big promise to future generations – and I believe we should do our level best to keep

this ambitious promise. For the first time in history, all dimensions of sustainable development are integrated in a balanced way in a *universal* agenda: For the first time, it is acknowledged that **peace and sustainable development are mutually dependent**.

Moreover, it is important to note that this interconnection does not only exist because we managed to establish SDG 16. In fact, there are **36 individual targets** throughout the Sustainable Development Goals directly pertaining to peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Therefore, we suggest calling it Goal 16+, a concept which includes all interlinked targets.

But we must no longer discuss the *content* of the 2030 Agenda – **the What? question**. It is now high time to consider *the way* we implement it – **the how**. This “How?” question actually refers to the way we live up to our commitments.

The **Roadmap** that is being consulted with you today is to be considered a first draft of a common vision, which has resulted from the **“Pathfinders”-Process**. As you [might] know, the Pathfinders are a voluntary group of member states and non-state actors, which – since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda – held several meetings in New York and Geneva. We exchanged our own experiences and clearly got the confirmation that **every country has homework to do**.

At the same time, we have also recognized the **need for collective action**. Because one thing is clear: Both research and common sense tell us that no state or organization can act alone in this endeavour, and that we have to join forces. Timing is crucial and we need to build momentum around SDG16+ in the run up to the leader’s HLPF in 2019 when SDG 16 will be under review.. And indeed, there is **great need to**

accelerate the implementation of SDG 16+, if we want to achieve *all* the SDGs by 2030.

Let me just briefly mention two examples to illustrate this point: Take **Access to justice** for all. By some estimates, around four billion people do not enjoy full protection of the law – and are thus (at least in part) deprived of their access to justice. If current trajectories continue, this target will certainly *not* be achieved by 2030. **“Business as usual” is not an option anymore!**

For Switzerland, one important issue is the **prevention of violence**, including the **prevention of violent conflict**. In other words: It is *crucial* that **grievances are addressed early**. Grievances are often rooted in perceptions of **exclusion** and **injustice**. Most importantly, **grievances start small – before they become big**. And let us not forget: **most conflicts actually do not become violent**. It is when **no adequate grievance mechanisms are available**, that small grievances become big and conflict turns violent.

Addressing grievances early is thus at the very heart of the promise of the 2030 Agenda to **leave no one behind**.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

This is why we, the **“Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies”**, are committed to establish and subscribe to a commonly owned Roadmap, which will hopefully **result in concrete and transformative change** for those left behind.

Before handing over to our keynote speaker, please allow me to briefly highlight two important attributes of the Pathfinders:

- 1) First, the **Pathfinders are not a closed group**. It's a coalition of the willing, who want to take this agenda forward and we invite you all to join us.
- 2) Second, this **Roadmap is a living document**. We invite all countries and other stakeholders, including civil society and local actors in particular, to **contribute to this Roadmap**. Please pass the message to potentially interested parties that **all comments and contributions are most welcome**.

Tell us whether you think this Roadmap is useful *for you*. Please let us know what you would like to **add**, what you would like to **change**, and what can be done **to make it actionable**. Because at the end of the day, we have to achieve **real progress for real people** **As said Nelson**

Mandela: "When the history of our times is written, will we be remembered as the generation that turned our backs in a moment of global crisis or will it be recorded that we did the right thing?"

With this, I would like to hand over to our keynote speaker, **Dr Bambang Brodjonegoro**, who is **Indonesia's Minister of National Development Planning (5 min.!)**

Closing remarks

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank you very much for your attendance, the lively engagement and – in advance – for your feedbacks to the roadmap. I don't want to stretch your precious time any longer.

As I said, we **have to accelerate the implementation of SDG 16+**. Let's **use this tool, this roadmap, to make this happen**. Let's work together

to gear up – and eventually bring **about more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.**

Thank you very much!