

Statement by the Government of Portugal

Delivered by Jorge Aranda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal,

On the occasion of the 2023 SDG Summit
*High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the 78th
United Nations General Assembly*

Accelerating SDG Commitments: 1.8 Billion Adolescents and Youth Transforming our World

19 September 2023
New York

I would like to start by thanking the organizers, in particular the Government of Honduras, for the invitation to be here today. I will use my “1.8” minutes to make three brief points:

First, I would like to reiterate Portugal’s commitment to the youth agenda, which needs no introduction.

Apart from the resolutions we present both here in New York and in Geneva on youth and issues affecting young persons, we hosted in Lisbon, in 1998, the first-ever World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.

And not long ago, in 2019, Lisbon hosted again this World Conference, where we adopted the Lisbon+21 Declaration, with clear commitments towards young persons, including equal education opportunities for all and the promotion of digital and media literacy, as well as soft skills, to enhance employability.

Second, I would like to recall our support to the United Nations Secretary General, my fellowman António Guterres, in his initiatives regarding youth, as well as our commitment to an inclusive and sustainable development.

Supporting the youth agenda means supporting the twin transitions – the digital and green transitions – which we need to ensure that are just. Supporting the youth means leaving no one behind, facilitating social cohesion, advancing gender equality, driving inclusive economy growth and ensuring decent jobs.

Third and lastly, we believe that we should do all of this while listening to young persons. The motto “nothing about youth without youth” is our guiding principle. We cannot discuss the future if young persons are not involved. Young persons: your voices must be heard, you must have a say in your own future.

We see you. We hear you.