



Draft 2 First Reading of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration
By Winifred Doherty, Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
June 15 and June 16, 2017

Excellences,

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you in preparation for the finalization of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. My name is Winifred Doherty, and I am a member of the Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group, of which my organization is a member.

We call for a robust and courageous Ministerial Declaration that urges all Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for respecting, protecting and fulfilling the Human Rights of girls and women. I am choosing to address two issues, asking that

- Zero tolerance of every form of gender based violence, including trafficking in persons and
- Financed, gender-sensitive social protection systems and measures for all, including floors

are included as non-negotiable elements in this HLPF Ministerial Declaration.

Both of these elements are imbedded in human rights principles and are the basis for inclusive and enduring sustainable development. Gender-responsive social protection helps to reduce inequalities and achieve poverty eradication. Austerity measures and human rights abuses globally jeopardize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty are mutually reinforcing.

While we appreciate the mentions of youth and children and women and girls in the draft, we note that mention of girls as particular agents of change for sustainable development is absent. "The root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms that view women and girls as subordinate to men and boys and often subordinate girls to women must be addressed." I suggest that the ministerial paragraph on youth – make specific mention to girls' leadership and girl-led organizations.

Policy coherence within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is vital. We urge you to address the underlying structures that foster inequalities and invite you to recommit to the universality of the agenda.