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Origine:	Secrétariat général du Conseil
Destinataire:	Comité des représentants permanents (2 ^e partie)
Objet:	Messages-clés de l'UE pour le Forum politique de haut niveau 2022

1. Chaque année depuis 2015, le Forum politique de haut niveau (HLPF) se réunit au siège des Nations-Unies à New York pour évaluer les efforts et les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 (Agenda 2030) et des 17 Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) qui en sont la traduction opérationnelle.
2. C'est aussi pour les gouvernements l'occasion d'échanger, entre eux ainsi qu'avec les représentants des principaux groupes d'intérêt et de la société civile, sur leurs expériences et bonnes pratiques dans la mise en œuvre au niveau national.
3. La session annuelle 2022 du HLPF se tiendra du 5 au 15 juillet sous l'égide du Conseil économique et social de l'ONU (ECOSOC) et débatera sur le thème de "Reconstruire en mieux après la pandémie de COVID-19 et promouvoir la mise en œuvre complète du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030". Le segment ministériel se tiendra du 13 au 15 juillet.
4. Les participants au HLPF seront invités notamment à réfléchir sur la manière dont les politiques de relance peuvent compenser les impacts négatifs de la pandémie COVID-19 sur les ODD, alors que la pandémie n'est pas encore terminée et que d'autres crises menacent d'anéantir les progrès réalisés et de ralentir de nouvelles avancées.

5. En outre, le HLPF 2022 se penchera de manière approfondie sur les ODD 4 (Éducation de qualité); 5 (Égalité entre les sexes); 14 (Vie aquatique); 15 (Vie terrestre) et 17 (Partenariats pour la réalisation des ODD).
 6. Dans ce contexte, le Groupe "Développement durable à l'horizon 2030" a examiné des messages-clés en vue de la session 2022 du HLPF, sur la base d'un projet de la Présidence présenté le 12 avril 2022. Ces messages sont proposés aux délégations de l'UE et des États membres pour nourrir leurs interventions à cette occasion. Ils sont envisagés comme un outil de communication politique, permettant de faire la promotion, sur une base commune, de l'action de l'Équipe Europe et de sa contribution à la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030.
 7. Eu égard aux éléments qui précèdent, le Comité des représentants permanents est invité à prendre note des messages-clés qui figurent en annexe et à confirmer l'accord qui est intervenu le 24 juin 2022 au niveau du groupe de travail.
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**Key elements for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
5 to 15 July 2022**

Issues of cross-cutting relevance to the 2030 Agenda

1. We are meeting halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and global efforts so far have proved insufficient. Our trajectories were already incompatible with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and they have been further hindered by the pandemic, conflicts, growing inequalities and unabated environmental degradation. The clock is ticking and we urgently need to get on track.
2. The EU and its Member States unreservedly condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which blatantly violates international law as well as the principles of the UN Charter and reiterate their solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Russia's decision to bring war back to Europe puts global peace, stability and security in jeopardy, affects people in all parts of the world and imperils the very fulfilment of the SDGs in all their dimensions. We support the United Nations Secretary General's call on Russia to stop the war. We are ready to take responsibility to ensure a decent livelihood for all refugees.
3. Peace and security are a prerequisite for sustainable development, in line with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. The political and economic disruptions brought about by the war in Ukraine threaten global recovery. Soaring food and energy prices, alongside other multiple impacts of the Russian aggression on Ukraine put SDG implementation at global level at risk, particularly SDGs 1, 2, 7, 10 and 16, exacerbating existing challenges, in particular food and nutrition insecurity, driven by the effects of climate change, and potentially creating new clusters of instability. More than ever, conflict prevention, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and inclusive approaches to resilience are necessary. The forced displacement of Ukrainian people has direct and concerning consequences on SDG 3, 4, and 5. In the light of the growing humanitarian and refugee crisis in Ukraine, the full enforcement of all international humanitarian law commitments is our first concern. Moreover, Russian shelling of industrial infrastructure is causing air, soil, and water pollution, with serious consequences on SDG6, as well as SDG14 and SDG15.

4. The EU and its Member States are committed to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recall that it constitutes a coherent and mutually reinforcing framework with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Acting as Team Europe, they have displayed leadership and set the global standard of ambition, through deeply transformative domestic policies and strategies, such as the European Green Deal, and positive contributions for the advancement of the multilateral agenda.
5. The 2030 Agenda remains our universal, indivisible and integrated roadmap, and it should be implemented as a whole and not selectively. As recalled in the European Consensus on Development, the EU and its Member States pay particular attention to addressing key crosscutting issues, in particular the promotion of gender equality and a human rights-based approach to sustainable development.
6. The EU and its Member States very much welcome the theme for this year's High Level Political Forum (HLPF) of "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Acting as Team Europe, they are actively involved for the continued strengthening of the HLPF as the central coordination body for the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The EU and its Member States value the participation of civil society and other stakeholders in all aspects of the HLPF and encourage all parts of society to actively engage. Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are a cornerstone of this process, and as such, their peer-learning character, inclusiveness and accountability needs to be enhanced. We call for honest and action-oriented VNRs that faithfully reflect the progress made, while also identifying challenges and gaps going forward.

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out a decade of global progress in development, exacerbating existing levels of inequality both within and between countries. It has set back the realization of the 2030 Agenda and exacerbated financing difficulties. This impact has been disproportionately felt by countries and populations especially women and young people and those in most vulnerable situations, such as migrants, people with disabilities and older people, millions of whom have been pushed into extreme poverty, as well as seafarers and fishers. Our top priority is to put an end to the pandemic and build back better and greener in a socially just balance to ensure a sustainable, equitable and inclusive recovery through a comprehensive and SDG-based response. We need to turn this crisis into an opportunity to build momentum for the implementation of the SDGs, to leave no one behind and to build resilience to future crises.
8. The international community needs to be better prepared to prevent and effectively tackle future pandemics. In this context we express our support to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemics prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) taking a “One Health” approach under the constitution of the WHO and reiterate the need to combat serious cross-border threats to health at national, regional and international level.
9. Equitable access to quality, safe and affordable vaccines is an essential condition for recovery and the achievement of SDG3. No one is safe until everyone is safe. We call for strengthened multilateral coordination on vaccination, under WHO guidance, and put special emphasis on the vaccine pillar of ACT-A, COVAX, to support COVID-19 vaccination in developing countries, local and regional vaccine production capacity as well as the capacity of local health systems to deliver on vaccination. The EU and its Member States, acting in a Team Europe approach, have taken their full part in the global solidarity effort by financing COVAX up to €4.5 billion and with a pledge to donate 700 million vaccines of which 472 have been shared to date, the majority of which through COVAX. During the EU-AU summit, Team Europe has pledged to mobilize €425 million to support COVID-19 immunization in Africa. In addition, Team Europe is supporting the development of local production through projects in several African countries, and is in ongoing dialogue on possible actions in other countries. The EU and its Member States will continue to support a robust post-pandemic recovery through investment into health systems and their long-term resilience.

10. The EU and its Member States welcome the UNSG's report "Our Common Agenda" as a concrete roadmap towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Revitalized global action and political commitment is needed to ensure an effective and timely delivery of the SDGs; it requires effective multilateralism, with a reformed UN at its core, and increased support for the rules-based international order.
11. The EU and its Member states are committed to enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) across all internal and external policies, with particular attention for the interlinkages between the different SDGs as well as the impacts of their domestic actions in partner countries, as captured by SDG 17.14.
12. The EU and its Member States, acting in a Team Europe approach, rely on renewed instruments and initiatives to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, domestically and abroad, such as the New Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument "NDICI-Global Europe" (including the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus +), flagship projects such as the Team Europe Initiatives, as well as the Global Gateway strategy.

SDG4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"

13. The COVID-19 pandemic had a dramatic impact on progress towards SDG4, due to nearly universal school closures, which exacerbated pre-existing educational inequalities among and within States. This unprecedented learning crisis has severely affected young generations and wiped out 20 years of progress on education, particularly in poorer and more vulnerable countries.
14. Education is a human right, which carries tremendous transformative power for a sustainable, just, inclusive, and resilient recovery. We welcome the Transforming Education Summit, convened by the UNSG in September 2022, as a key opportunity to mobilise greater commitment to accelerate progress on education, consistent with SDG 4, and tackle the learning crisis with a focus on those furthest behind. We expect concrete outcomes and roadmaps within the work of the summit action tracks.

15. There is an urgent need to address educational inequalities for girls and women as well as those in the most vulnerable and marginalized positions such as persons living in remote and rural areas, persons with disabilities, refugees, and displaced persons. Supporting quality, inclusive and equitable education systems as well as education in emergencies, including in fragile and conflict-affected contexts are top priorities for the EU and its Member states. Girls' education and gender equality in and through education is also a crosscutting priority in our support to education.
16. The EU and its Member States, acting in a Team Europe approach, have actively supported partner countries to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's learning and well-being and to facilitate their safe return to school. At country level, Team Europe has been working through the Local Education Groups to develop gender responsive COVID-19 response plans. Where possible, education programmes were adapted to help governments to ensure delivery of distance learning, curriculum adaptation and support to teachers.
17. There is an urgent need to promote better educational outcomes for all learners, decouple educational attainment and achievement from social, economic and cultural status and reduce the share of low-achievers and early leavers from education and training. There is an urgent need to advance technical and vocational education and training to enable youth to acquire skills and pursue (decent) employment in the green and digital (twin) transitions, and to support teachers' professional development at all levels, including their digital and pedagogical skills and sustainability competences. Furthermore the potential of digital technologies should be better exploited, for instance with open education resources, open science and e-learning facilities.
18. The EU and its Member States support global initiatives that promote policy dialogue and help address funding needs in the education sector, including in emergencies and protracted crises. Team Europe pledged over €1.8 billion to the Global Partnership for Education for the 2021-2025 cycle, and €275 million to Education Cannot Wait in the same timeframe. In line with the Paris Declaration adopted by UNESCO Member States in November 2021, we support and urge all governments to develop strategies to increase domestic resources for education and to use these resources effectively to ensure quality education for all.

19. Education is a key enabler for the achievement of all other SDGs, particularly through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED), as defined by SDG 4.7. It is necessary that not only the formal education system take action: non-formal and informal learning are also key as part of a lifelong learning process. All areas of administration and society should make their contribution to educate and raise awareness on sustainability issues. The EU and its Member States firmly support the work carried out in this regard, e.g. by UNESCO and UNECE.

SDG5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

20. Gender equality, women and girls’ empowerment and their full enjoyment of all human rights is more than a stand-alone goal. It is a catalyst towards the establishment of peaceful, more equitable, productive, inclusive and resilient societies that harness human potential and sustainable development, instrumental for the achievement of all SDGs.
21. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed and exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities and contributed to widening the gender gaps, with women and girls on the front line and the hardest hit, especially women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations. Sexual and gender-based violence as well as harmful practices have intensified and are at serious risk of increasing after declining in previous years, and increased care work is affecting women disproportionately.
22. The EU and the Member States have made gender equality an overarching priority in the EU’s political agenda. In this regard the European Commission has adopted the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025) and Gender Action Plan III, welcomed through Presidency Conclusions by 24 Member States. Acting in a Team Europe approach, they integrate gender issues in their external action, focusing on different key areas, such as women’s economic empowerment, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, equal participation and leadership, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the green transition and digital transformation, with the aim of addressing the root causes of gender inequality, including through a gender-responsive approach. We are committed to reaching our target of at least 85% of new actions implemented under the NDICI-GE having gender equality as a principal or a significant objective, and at least 5% having gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment as a principal objective.

23. The EU remains committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences and remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in this context. Having that in mind, the EU reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. The EU further stresses the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.
24. The EU and its Member States play an active role in the follow-up of key multilateral initiatives, such as the Generation Equality Forum, convened by UN Women and the Spotlight Initiative on sexual and gender-based violence. We call on the international community to consider the ratification of key international texts for the protection of women and girls' rights, such as the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment.

SDG14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”

25. We are particularly concerned about the poor health and status of the oceans and seas. While progress has been made towards achieving some of the targets, we deeply regret the failure to meet the 4 targets with a 2020 timeline. Clean, healthy, productive and resilient oceans are critical for tackling wider climate change and biodiversity loss, and of great social and economic significance for societies, including through the provision of ecosystem services. In this regard, building a sustainable ocean economy is critical to achieving the SDGs. We therefore welcome the commitment made by the government leaders and representatives during the Second UN Ocean Conference, in June, to act decisively and urgently towards the full implementation of Goal 14.

26. The EU and its Member States are seriously concerned with marine pollution coming from land and sea-based sources and recognise the link between land, fresh water and oceans, including in view of the UN 2023 Water Conference. They are actively involved in combating marine pollution, with some of the most ambitious domestic standards. We welcome the adoption of the resolution to End Plastic Pollution at the 5th United Nations Environmental Assembly and are committed to developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment by the end of 2024.
27. The EU wants to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries and restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, so that they can continue to provide safe and healthy diets to humanity. The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing needs to be accelerated. The EU has built a strong system aiming at ensuring that no seafood originating from IUU fishing enters its market. We support ambitious anti-IUU schemes at bilateral and multilateral levels, especially within regional fisheries management organisations, and are firmly committed to reaching an agreement at the WTO on curbing harmful subsidies as required under target 14.6.
28. EU Member States endorsed the objective of expanding a coherent network of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas to protect at least 30% of the EU Member States sea areas by 2030, one third of which strictly protected. Marine protected areas networks already cover about 12% of EU Member States areas and we are committed to the timely delivery of these targets. We also promote protecting at least 30% of global seas in the discussions on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties under the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15).
29. The UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in oceans and seas must be carried out. The EU and its Member States are committed to reach an ambitious, universal, effective and equitable UNCLOS implementing agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction. We urge all States to conclude it at the 5th and final intergovernmental conference.

30. The different international processes underway, such as CBD COP 15, the negotiations on implementing agreement under the UNCLOS on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, the One Ocean Summit, UNEA 5.2, Our Ocean Conference and the Second UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon and the UN Decade of Ocean Science, should reinforce each other, catalyse coherent action and feed into future work on the 2030 Agenda, addressing the interlinkages between SDG14 and the other SDGs.

SDG15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

31. Rapid biodiversity loss, the sixth extinction of species and pollinators decline pose a serious threat for the future of humanity. The EU and its Member States are strongly committed to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and land biodiversity and ecosystems.
32. Biodiversity and ecosystems have wide implications for sustainable development and livelihoods, directly affecting other areas of the 2030 Agenda. Nature-based solutions, in line with the agreed definition at UNEA-5, can make significant contributions and act as a catalyst for the achievement of many of the SDGs. In this spirit, the EU and its Member States consider that the health of humans, animals and the planet are interconnected, and support the "One Health" approach. We support the work of the newly established Quadripartite OIE-FAO-WHO-UNEP and of the "One Health" High Level Expert Panel. We reiterate our commitment to fight against antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses.
33. The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. We aim for its full implementation, in particular regarding the target to legally protect at least 30% of the EU's land and sea area, a third of which under strict protection, which we also promote in multilateral negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. EU and its Member States underline the need to fully mainstream biodiversity considerations into all relevant sectors of society for reaching the objectives set by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).

34. The EU and its Member States aim at an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) at CBD COP15 in Kunming. We advocate for a package that combines ambitious, realistic and measurable goals and targets with strong mechanisms for the monitoring of implementation and review of ambitions, and a solid package on financing from all sources, including the alignment of all financial flows with the objectives of the framework. In September 2021, President Von der Leyen announced that the EU will double international financing for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries.
35. The EU and its Member States remain the main global donor of biodiversity official development assistance (ODA). Through specific initiatives, such as “NaturAfrica”, undertaken through a Team Europe approach, we pursue biodiversity action, as links with other development objectives, such as the fight against climate change, the reduction of land degradation, the promotion of sustainable and resilient food systems delivering healthy diets and food security to all, as well as sustainable forest management.
36. The EU and its Member States have taken ambitious action to protect forests, given their important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change and reversing land degradation, preserving biodiversity while ensuring the maintaining of essential ecosystem services for people and the transition towards a green economy. The Commission’s proposal for a new Regulation to halt EU-driven deforestation and forest degradation is a decisive step to this end while respecting international trade rules.
37. The EU and its Member States are also committed to combat desertification, restore land and soil and achieve land-degradation neutrality by 2030, as per SDG 15.3. To this end, the EU and its Member States will continue supporting the Global Soil Partnership and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and providing direct financial support to the Great Green Wall initiative in the Sahel region, through the Accelerator launched during the One Planet Summit in 2021. COP15 UNCCD, held in Abidjan from 9th to 20th May 2022, was a decisive impulse for addressing droughts and land restoration challenges.

SDG17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

38. In light of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the climate crisis and increased geopolitical insecurity, there is a crucial need to further accelerate mobilization of all sources of finance towards sustainable development in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
39. In 2021, the EU and its Member States remained the world's biggest provider of ODA having increased its collective ODA to €68.7 billion (+4.3% compared to 2020 in real terms) and accounting for 45% of global ODA (0.49% of their gross national income (GNI)). We remain committed to meet our collective short-term and long-term targets, in particular the internationally agreed goal of providing 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as ODA, and 0.20% of ODA/GNI to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) within the timeframe of the 2030 Agenda. Acting together in a Team Europe approach, we aim to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of our development cooperation, aligning with partner country needs and contributing to SDG implementation.
40. LDCs should be a key focus of our attention. The EU and its Member States take note with appreciation of the adoption in March 2022 of the Fifth UN Programme of Action for the LDCs and invite the international community to support LDCs towards their sustainable, irreversible and smooth graduation. Other countries in special situations – such as fragile and conflict-affected States, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) – should also remain at the centre of our efforts to build partnerships for sustainable development.

41. In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda's call, we work on scaling up sustainable finance in partner countries. For example we support the development of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) and its wide adoption within the UN System, to provide more transparency on resources for sustainable development, aligned with the SDGs. We also support more than 80 countries' development of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), to map the landscape for financing for sustainable development at country level and to develop country-led financing strategies to reach the SDGs. Furthermore, we promote sustainable finance frameworks and instruments such as green bonds, which will benefit from the recommendations by the high-level expert group on Sustainable Finance in low- and middle-income countries. In order to support private investment in partner countries consistent with the SDGs, we provide finance and guarantees through the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+).
42. The EU has been a strong promoter of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative as part of the G20 action plan to respond to the crisis and of the swift and transparent implementation of the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI. We welcome the US\$ 650 billion special drawing rights (SDRs) general allocation issued last August by the IMF and the efforts being done for the voluntary re-allocation of SDRs via the IMF established tools. The EU continues to support domestic revenue mobilisation, as the most sustainable and reliable way of financing effective government responses and public services delivery. Given the huge financing gap to reach the SDGs and a sustainable recovery, the EU also continues to support the scaling up of sustainable finance, including private finance. It is committed to aligning investments with the 2030 Agenda and to promote sustainable public procurement practices.
43. The EU and its Member States actively support the digital transition of partner countries, and launched the Digital4Development Hub, a strategic platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination. We pay particular attention to strengthening digital rights in partner countries. We recognize the importance of indicators in measuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that evidence-based data leads the transition to a sustainable future. We support partner countries to address existing gaps in SDG-measuring and reporting, with trademark initiatives, such as Copernicus, the EU-AU Data Flagship and the Global Development Data Tool.