

Intervention by Guatemala

Side Event: A Common Agenda for Future Generations

Good afternoon, Excellencies, distinguished Ministers, Heads of Delegation, delegates and representatives,

I want to thank the UN Foundation and all the coalitions that organized this roundtable. It is a privilege to be part of this event, with such amazing experts dedicated to finding solutions for today's global challenges in benefit of the upcoming generations. It is a responsibility that we all must share. BTW, Guatemala's median age is 23 and 50% of it is under 19 years of age.

Guatemala supports a new impetus for multilateralism and values this opportunity as a platform to hear the voices of youth, who are the present and more importantly the future of our planet. As part of our national consultation towards this Conference, we were able to hold genuine discussions not only about challenges, but also about solutions. In this regard allow me to share three focal points:

1. The importance of more accessible education oriented to protect the environment, including access of environmental technologies and capacity building.
2. The value of PPP's; oriented to scale investments in green energy, nature-based solutions, and projects to address the basic needs of the population.
3. The need to value and rescue indigenous knowledge, with added value to enhance food security, and conservation of the environment.

As a middle-income country, we value the proposal included in the Report of the UN Secretary General entitled "Our Common Agenda", to create development measures beyond GDP, and we call on multilateral financial institutions to be consistent with climate ambition and consider vulnerability criteria and resilience-building when allocating financial resources.

Finally, as a country with a high percentage of a young population, we call for better protection of children and young people. We must generate opportunities, prosperity, decent employment, and education that empowers the young population to be active agents in the protection and care of our planet.

As the Stockholm Declaration indicates, the protection and improvement of the human environment is a fundamental issue that affects people's well-being. As an international community we have made progress in creating commitments, but now is the time to implement concrete actions.

Thank you very much.