

World Leaders Summit - Dialogue I
**Global vulnerabilities - Call from a
vulnerable place**

4 October 2021

Statement by

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Nations**

UNITED NATIONS



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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT UNCTAD 15 World Leaders Summit
Dialogue on global vulnerabilities:
Call from a vulnerable place**

Bridgetown, Barbados

04 October 2021

Excellencies,

We have gathered at a critical time.

The decisions we take will define the future of humanity.

Our future depends on solidarity, trust and our ability to work together for our common goal of delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call at a time when the world was already off track to reach the SDGs.

The pandemic has deepened existing and formed new divides within and between countries.

As always, women, children and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected.

Vulnerable countries see their window of opportunity for recovery, resilience and adaptability narrowed by the day and compounded by the looming climate crisis.

Without equitable access to vaccines for developing countries, the estimated cost to the global economy will reach 9.4 trillion USD in 2021 alone.

In addition, we face the potential of collapsing health systems, livelihoods and social protections.

Once again, this will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable countries.

From the onset of the crisis, we witnessed the challenges of our interconnectedness and dependency on global supply chains.

But equally, we saw the critical role that trade can play in ensuring access to essential goods.

We need to ensure that the power of trade delivers for all countries.

This means addressing gaps in infrastructure and access to digital tools.

And it means supporting truly green and sustainable value chains that contribute to our climate goals.

We also need to remove restrictions and eliminate harmful subsidies that hamper participation in global trade systems.

We need to provide a strong investment push aligned with the SDGs — and advance forward-looking science, technology and innovation policy frameworks.

And we must open new opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises in global commerce.

Throughout, we must fundamentally change our patterns of consumption and production, striving to achieve an inclusive circular economy.

The challenge before you is clear.

“Leaving no one behind” goes well beyond a moral commitment. It is a commitment to our common future. And the only pathway to a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

I trust you will use the opportunity of UNCTAD15 to bring about concrete policy decisions and collective action in support of our common goals to deliver the 2030 Agenda for humanity.

I wish you a successful conference.