



Agenda item: 7

General debate

Statement by:

European Union on behalf of its member States



Your Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

As political leaders, we measure our success in terms of progress: how far we have come in advancing the interests of our constituents.

Sometimes an event occurs that not only stops the march of progress – it turns it in reverse.

2020 saw the first reversal in human development for the last thirty years.

The pandemic pushed more than 100 million people into extreme poverty.

Approximately 118 million more face chronic hunger.

Vaccines have been deployed unevenly and economies have suffered unequally.

Past development in both gender equity and access to education has been erased.

We cannot build back. We must build back better.

The European Union believes we must seize this opportunity to build a more inclusive and sustainable world.

Over the past year, Team Europe mobilised more than 46 billion euros to help our partners fight the pandemic.

This support has allowed governments to strengthen health and social protection spending.

We have also driven global debt relief efforts.

And, we have worked hard for vaccine solidarity through COVAX.

Dear friends,

We welcome and support Rebeca Grynspan's efforts to revitalise UNCTAD ensuring its contribution to multilateralism.

Trade plays an important role in achieving a fair recovery. We welcome a strong and constructive partnership with UNCTAD.

Through trade, we can ensure full inclusion of all populations into development.

Human rights and gender equality are fundamental, as is access to education.

This is very important to EU, and we are increasing spending on education in partner countries from 7% to at least 10%.

We have an unprecedented opportunity.

The EU is ready to work with our partners to build back better.

Together, we can lay the groundwork for a fairer, greener, and more sustainable world.