Agenda Item 3: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews

Thank you Chair,

The Republic of Armenia is a strong advocate of sustainable development goals and their effective implementation. For us those are not merely words, but a crucial commitment to make real and tangible changes for the present and future generations. In fact, the Government of Armenia designs many of its reforms based on the goals and actions of SDGs.

That is why the Republic of Armenia is committed to effectively implement the SDGs and share its experience through the VNRs. The best exhibit of this is the fact that the Republic of Armenia, regardless of the current challenging period, has decided to present its 3rd voluntary national review during this year’s HLPF.

As we have embarked on the active preparatory process of the 3rd VNR, it is important to mention that this is going to be the most inclusive and participatory VNR of Armenia, with the engagement of multiple stakeholders from parliament, grassroots organizations, civil society, youth representatives, academia, private sector and media, while the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impaired the possibility of having similar results during our previous VNR.

We have already had initial stakeholder consultations and soon we will start rounds of large-scale consultations with the full-fledged participation of different stakeholders, with the last round serving as a platform for validation of the results of the VNR. Why is it so important for us? Because we believe that the successful implementation of SDGs requires multi-stakeholder ownership and commitment.
Chair,

Armenia’s 3rd VNR will tell the most recent story of Armenia, with its challenges, difficulties, but also achievements and aspirations for development and for a lasting peace and stability in our region.

This will not be an SDG driven VNR, rather a story-based VNR, which will tell the international community a story of a small, land-locked developing country, which within the last three to four years had to face unparalleled challenges and threats due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a major war, coercion and unprecedented influx of more then 108 thousand refugees, forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh just a few months ago.

At the same time, this will be a story of resilience, believe and determination to deliver on its commitments towards the attainment of the SDGs and build the necessary foundations for the development and prosperity of the current and future generations, based on the firm bedrock of democracy, human rights, rule of law and strong and resilient institutions.

While Armenia is taking a whole-of-society approach in its VNR preparations, we believe that this process and its outcomes will serve as a major impetus for policy coherence to ensure that all levels of the government and the society are aligned to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while feeding into the upcoming national policy-making and planning processes, such as the development of the new UNSDCF for Armenia.

I thank you Chair