

Statement by Mr. Collin Tavi
The Second World Summit for Social Development,
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Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for the Republic of Vanuatu to join this distinguished gathering here in Doha. At the outset, allow me to express my deep appreciation to the people and Government of the State of Qatar for the gracious hospitality extended to my delegation. We wish to also commend the Government of the State of Qatar and UNDESA for co-convening this important summit at a time when the world faces deepening social, economic, and environmental challenges and the need to reaffirm our collective commitments to building a just, inclusive, and sustainable world.

For Vanuatu, social development is inseparable from human dignity, equality, and resilience. Our small island developing state stands on the frontline of global crises—not only the climate emergency, but also the economic and social inequalities that continue to widen the gap between nations and within societies. We reaffirm our dedication to the Copenhagen Declaration on social development, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and the vital importance of leaving no one behind.

Addressing profound social challenges—poverty, unemployment, social exclusion—is urgent. It is our shared responsibility to tackle their root causes, in accordance with international law and human rights obligations. We believe that the core themes of social development—poverty eradication, full and productive employment, decent work, and social integration—are mutually reinforcing. Creating enabling environments for these objectives is essential and a prerequisite for sustainable progress.

Excellencies,

Vanuatu's development efforts are guided by our national strategies, notably the Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan 2016-2030, which emphasizes a balanced approach that integrates social, environmental, and economic pillars to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. This plan builds on our national progress and sets a transformative path towards achieving a resilient, prosperous, and equitable society by 2030. It underscores the importance of protecting our natural environment, fostering social cohesion, and promoting sustainable economic development as interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives.

We are committed to advancing the Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2018–2025 and the Vanuatu National Gender Equality Policy 2020-2030, which reaffirm our dedication to inclusivity,

gender equality, and the empowerment of all citizens. Despite progress—such as improved access to education and health—many vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and those in rural communities, still face significant barriers. Rising inequalities and climate impacts threaten to reverse our social gains. We recognize that inclusive development must prioritize the needs of these groups, empowering them through targeted policies, accessible infrastructure, and community awareness.

Excellencies,

To accelerate progress, we must reaffirm our commitment to ambitious climate action, resilient social protection systems, and inclusive economic policies. Vanuatu supports intergovernmental commitments aligned with the SDGs, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the more recent Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development. We emphasize the importance of placing people at the center of development, ensuring that we leave no one behind, by reaching the furthest behind first.

We recognize that each country faces specific challenges—particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as least developed countries and small island developing states. We stand ready to support targeted strategies, regional frameworks, and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

Excellencies,

Vanuatu envisions a future where social justice, inclusion, and human dignity are upheld universally. Guided by our national strategies, we are committed to implementing policies that create opportunities for all, especially our youth, women, and marginalized communities. With renewed political will and collective action, we aspire to build a resilient, equitable, and prosperous Vanuatu, contributing to a world that indeed leaves no one behind.

Tankio Tumas!