

**Statement of H.E. Laurentino Cortizo Cohen**  
**President of the Republic of Panamá**  
**SDG Moment**

**Good morning,**

I would like to greet all of you on behalf of the people of Panama.

I am pleased to have the opportunity of exchanging experiences and contributions related to the Sustainable Development Goals, as an unbreakable commitment of our country.

Our government has always had the objective **of governing** to transform and our Government Strategic Plan is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Last year, even during the middle of the pandemic, we presented to you the **Voluntary National Review**, with the results of **the efforts** the Panamanian Government had achieved on each of the global goals related to the SDGs.

That same focus has oriented our plans and actions from before and during the pandemic and it will guide us as well to overcome this crisis during the post-pandemic phase.

We will continue promoting opportunity and inclusion as indispensable factors for fighting poverty and inequality, to strengthen democracy and increase spaces for citizen participation on the road to development in order to build a sustainable and inclusive future.

As a sample of this commitment, our government called the country to a national dialogue, with the support of the United Nations, with the purpose of identifying issues that matter most to the population and receive their proposed solutions for a consensus decision making which will last beyond a government term.

Citizens responded to this call to dialogue, which we named Bicentennial Pact “Closing Gaps”, with enthusiasm, participating and contributing over one hundred seventy-five thousand proposals.

That joint vision will contribute to maintaining focus on sustainable development, ensuring long-term solutions with social justice, equal opportunities and respect to human rights.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The multiple effects of the pandemic teach us, unquestionably, that we must undertake the necessary structural transformations for sustainable development together, in this, the house of us all, planet Earth.

Panama reaffirms **its** disposition to participate and contribute to collaboration efforts that will allow the advancement of joint development policies to minimize delays in the compliance of the 2030 Agenda, especially now, when we must accelerate recovery in the post-pandemic stage.

**Thank you.**