With the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development already under way, it is urgent to recognize and act upon the fact that two challenges that are central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals - inequality and climate change are not being overcome and are instead being aggravated. Inequalities in income and multiple other dimensions of well-being - including in the security of employment and exposure to violence and crime - are rising. Furthermore, without adequate policy frameworks, the rapid advances in science, technology and innovation under way can push vulnerable people further behind rather than acting as instruments for sustainable development. At the same time, an abundant scientific evidence of the catastrophic potential of climate change contrasts sharply with the weak global response. Failure to address the mutually reinforcing problems of inequality and climate change is threatening to reverse the already insufficient advances on the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the pledge to leave no one behind.

Inequality inequality hampers breeds and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in many ways. As documented in the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, rising inequalities inhibit economic growth and make it more fragile, aggravating social problems.1 As expressed both in the Report and by the Committee in 2018 and 2019,2 inequalities in development are perpetuated by inequalities in decision-making structures, making it more difficult to achieve progress in areas of both national and global concern. Moreover, exclusion and internal divisions have led to political instability and crises in national governance in many countries and to a clear setback on Sustainable Development Goal 16, concerning the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to the provision of access to justice for all, and to building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

However, isolated interventions will not work. A transformation commensurate with the scale of the challenge presented by inequality and climate change

- (c) The right of States to policy space to pursue national development strategies should be enshrined in global rules;
- (d) Global regulations should be designed both to strengthen a dynamic international division of labour and to prevent destructive unilateral economic
- actions that prevent other nations from realizing common goals;
- (e) Global public institutions must be accountable to their full membership, open to a diversity of viewpoints, cognizant of new voices and have