



The following statement was delivered by MPV UN Representative Omair Paul on behalf of the NGO Major Group during a dialogue session between member states and civil society during the 2017 High-Level Political Forum.

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on “*Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World.*”

Statement delivered by Omair Paul (on behalf of NGO Major Group)

High-Level Political Forum | United Nations Headquarters | New York, NY | 11 July 2017

Many thanks to DESA/DSD and the MGoS Coordination Mechanism for organizing this important event. Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, my name is Omair Paul and I am the UN representative for Muslims for Progressive Values, however I am delivering this statement in my capacity as an organizational member of several global progressive and inclusive faith based networks. I'm taking the floor today to highlight an issue that has emerged as an egregious affront against the integrity of the 2030 Agenda: and that is the issue of rising waves of fundamentalisms and extremisms worldwide.

Noting that various forms of fundamentalisms exist, religious and cultural fundamentalisms that are instrumentalized to incite discrimination and violence against numerous marginalized and vulnerable communities are particularly counterintuitive to the holistic realization of the SDGs. This global wave of fundamentalism and extremism across religions, manifested in both the global south and global north, presents a serious threat to all dimensions of sustainable development at all levels, especially considering that this agenda relies on human capabilities and human dignity. It relies on leaving no one behind.

My question to the States and MGoS representatives here is whether UN sustainable development processes are poised to benefit from a coordinated and organized of progressive and inclusive faith based organizations--organizations that are uniquely positioned to counter narratives of discrimination that pervade policy spaces, and that can tap into the moral and social capital of religious communities locally--to ensure religious and cultural fundamentalisms are monitored and countered and to ensure that the SDGs are holistically implemented nationally.

Thank you.