

High Level Political Forum - 7 July Session on “Working towards the 2023 SDG Summit”

Intervention by Bodo Ellmers, Global Policy Forum, on behalf of the Civil Society Financing for Development Group

Thank you chair. You said that there was big applause from CSOs in 2015 when the Agenda 2030 was adopted. Well, perhaps this was a little premature. There is less reason for applause now, as we see the dire state of SDG implementation.

The independent monitoring that we as civil society organizations did, proved that, even in the early years of the Agenda 2030, **implementation was not on track**. COVID-19 and the war in Eastern Europe were just additional backlashes, but no excuses. As things currently stand, not a single SDG will be reached.

The reasons is primarily the inadequate and insufficient Means of Implementation. As Ambassador Kamau said: **financing matters**. The insufficiencies of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda - and the reluctance to implement this agenda - sent the Agenda 2030 off to a false start, already in 2015. The outcome was predictable.

What do we expect the SDG Summit to do?

The SDG Summit should conduct a **honest and serious stock-taking** of the Means of Implementation. It should analyze **what means** are needed to get SDG implementation on track, and **where the deficits lie**. This **particularly in the area of financing for development and the international financial architecture**.

The findings of such a stock-taking should eventually **inform the agenda of FfD4** – of the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development – to be held soon after the SDG Summit. We expect the **General Assembly to set the date for FfD4** this autumn, and send the preparatory process off with a strong mandate.

It is clearly the **Means of Implementation** that need to be fixed. It is pointless to continue discussing SDG targets without fixing the Means of Implementation. Key for the Agenda is to advance **systemic reforms of the international financial and trade architecture**. In the first half of agenda 2030, priority was given to leveraging private finance. This approach has failed.

I could not agree more with my CSO colleague from Nigeria that **all parties need to demonstrate commitment and strong political will**, both for the SDG Summit and for FfD4. I think it's clear to everyone that it is time **to take serious steps**. Otherwise, I am afraid, the upcoming SDG Summit will be a **burial ceremony** for the Agenda 2030

Lastly, I understand that the silence procedure was broken this morning. And the negotiations on the outcome document have been reopened. There is no reason to procrastinate. There is still a chance to **initiate necessary reforms now, at this HLPF**. CSOs want to have some reason to applaud when this HLPF is over.