



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals



Vision of civil society: Systemic reforms to leave no one behind

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Secretariat Background Note

Pathways for Moving Forward in the post COVID-19 recovery and advancing the 2030 Agenda

There is no dispute that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, many of which were already off track for meeting the 2030 targets. According to the United Nations 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report, there is a risk of a diverging world, further exacerbating existing inequalities, with developed countries quickly recovering from the pandemic shock in 2021 while developing countries are still unable to regain lost ground.

Leaving many behind has already become a reality for many countries. Unless international cooperation is reinvigorated and scaled-up, post pandemic recovery for many developing countries will be unattainable, much less reaching the SDGs. It is not enough to reaffirm and recommit to agreements reached, such as the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework and other major United Nations outcomes in the economic, social and environmental fields that are complementary to the 2030 Agenda.

Against this dire background, delivery on past commitments must be matched by additional urgent actions. The large recovery gaps



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals



between countries urgently require the expansion of policy and fiscal space of developing countries through systemic reforms and financing policies that can ensure better alignment between social, ecological, economic and climate priorities. At the same time, information ecosystems, data and transparency need to be improved and strengthened. What specific efforts must be made to tackle persistent problems while addressing new challenges?

In this context, how should governments generate and dedicate more fiscal resources for qualitative and inclusive public services – education, health, social protection and digital inclusion? And how should governments uphold the “Right to Development” as a fundamental framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequalities between and within countries to leave no one behind? How can they overcome corruption which is a huge problem in many developing countries and siphons off human and fiscal resources that could be used to provide quality basic human services?

Guiding questions:

- The large recovery gaps between countries urgently require the expansion of policy and fiscal space of developing countries. Which systemic reforms and financing policies can ensure better alignment between social, ecological, economic and climate priorities?
- How can governments effectively dedicate more resources - fiscal and human - to quality and inclusive public services for education, health, social protection?



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals



- How can governments uphold the “Right to Development” as a fundamental framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequalities between and within countries, in order to leave no one behind based on human rights and gender perspectives?

Background

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOS) are crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. They contribute to review processes at all levels, including at international level, notably at the high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF), in the regional forums on sustainable development, through national mechanisms that engage civil society actors and include them in the preparation of voluntary national reviews, and at the local level where transformative change happens through the actions undertaken by many types of stakeholders every day. MGOS have been active at the international level since before the inception of the 2030 Agenda, and they are a crucial part of related United Nations processes such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. The MGOS also contribute to intergovernmental discussions and debate leading to global policy-making on critical issues affecting the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, notably at the HLPF.

The voices of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders have been increasingly heard since the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 endorsed Agenda 21, which established nine Major Groups (Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples,



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals



NGOs, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers). Twenty years later, in adopting the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want” the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, explicitly involved Major Groups as well as Other Stakeholders in all matters relating to the United Nations and its work in sustainable development; and made a commitment to work together with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in addressing implementation gaps. In that resolution, the General Assembly also decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The following year, in its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum, the General Assembly made specific references¹ to participation of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders and their active involvement in all activities pertaining to the high-level political forum at all levels. In that resolution, the General Assembly also encouraged Major Groups and Other Stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization.

A coordination mechanism was thus established during the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, and its membership has grown from the original nine Major Groups listed above to include 15 other

¹ in paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22 and 24



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals



entities, including group of stakeholders (older persons, local communities, migrants, private philanthropic organizations and foundations, education and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups, LGBTI, and Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent), regional mechanisms (the Africa Regional Coordination Mechanism, Asia and Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, and ECE Regional Coordination Mechanism), thematic mechanisms (Civil Society Financing for Development Group, Sendai Stakeholders), and global public interest networks (Together 2030).

The participation of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders has since been further reconfirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/290 of 25 June 2021, Part B, concerning the review of the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum.

Against this background, each year at the HLPF, an official session is specifically designated for the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders to present their views on the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

This MGOS official session at the 2022 HLPF, organized by the MGOS Coordination Mechanism in collaboration with UN DESA, offers the MGOS an opportunity to discuss pathways and concrete proposals for moving forward in the post COVID-19 recovery and the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. It will discuss which systemic reforms and initiatives can best tackle structural inequalities and contribute to building more equal, inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.