



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Perspectives from Major Groups and other Stakeholders at the mid-point of the SDGs

Friday, 14 July 2023, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Secretariat Background Note

Halfway there, but nowhere near: the need for genuine actions towards inclusive transformation

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up and review process, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution 67/290. This resolution stresses the need for the HLPF to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the MGoS at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, includes specific provisions on their engagement, and encourages them 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.”¹

The MGoS bring forth the voices, sentiments and aspirations of the people, often those who are most marginalized and left behind, and are experts, rights-holders and key actors in the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

¹ [A/RES/67/290](#), paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22 and 24.



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The MGoS Coordination Mechanism was accordingly established to “provide an autonomous and self-organizing space for coordination among social groups and societal constituencies interested and committed to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up and review process.”² It is comprised of constituency groups that represent the original nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 (Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers) as well as 15 additional relevant entities, including groups 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).

Against this backdrop, the HLPF includes an official thematic session each year dedicated to the views and perspectives of the MGoS, on a range of issues relevant to the annual theme and the review of progress. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290, position papers on the HLPF theme are also submitted to the HLPF by MGoS constituencies that have autonomously established and maintained effective coordination mechanisms for participation. A compilation of the executive

² [Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference](#), 18 December 2020.



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summaries of these position papers are available on the HLPF website as additional background to this session.³

Focus of the session

The mid-point review of the SDGs is an opportunity to renew the commitments, especially of Governments, and strengthen efforts to reach the Goals. The review should undertake an honest assessment of progress that addresses how the SDGs are failing to deliver such progress for many stakeholders, and how the pandemic and other global crises have affected lives.

This session aims to reflect opinions and proposals on how to orient and accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at its mid-point. It will feature presentations from MGoS members on systemic barriers and gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and key recommendations for inclusive transformation. The session will also include perspectives from regional stakeholder mechanisms, with examples and recommendations not only on accelerating action, but also on unpacking systemic barriers, filling gaps, and ensuring meaningful engagement of rights-holders in the implementation of the SDGs and towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion will include a critical analysis by diverse stakeholders and non-state actors on challenges and opportunities

³ [E/HLPF/2023/2](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/dest/2023/2). Discussion papers on the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, submitted by major groups and other stakeholders.



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for a more sustainable, human rights-based approach to development that is genuinely inclusive of all peoples.



Proposed questions for discussion



- What are peoples' perspectives and aspirations, particularly from those that have been left behind, on the systemic challenges and priorities to achieve transformational change in the face of multiple and intersecting crises?
- What are ways that civil society and community groups are stepping up to address gaps in implementation of the SDGs, and how can their actions be supported and enabled by development partners?
- How can we restore faith and underpin human rights, equality and equity—particularly intergenerational equity—to advance sustainable development in multilateral global governance; repurpose the global economy and reform finance, aid and trade, as well as promote climate action to genuinely leave no one behind?
- How can civic space at national and multilateral fora be expanded so that civil society can contribute more meaningfully to upcoming United Nations intergovernmental processes? How should we address the problem of threats against human rights defenders, and unlock the potential of civil society in contributing to just, equal, peaceful and sustainable societies?

