

SDG ACTION WEEKEND
16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2023



Enhancing Advocacy, Financing and Accountability: Key Messages from Civil Society to the SDG Summit and Beyond

**Organized by the UN SDG Action Campaign and the UN
Foundation**

Background

The 2030 Agenda as a universal plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, acknowledges the role of civil society as a key partner in the implementation processes, building global awareness and contributing to the accountability needed to achieve the SDGs. Given its critical role in amplifying the voices of the marginalized, disempowered and excluded at the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society is one of the key stakeholder groups engaged to fulfill the 2030 Agenda's overarching principle of leaving no one behind. The Civil Society Dialogue aimed to contribute to the success of the SDG Summit by providing a space for a high-level dialogue to share learnings from the first half of the SDG cycle, share views on progress and provide suggestions for ways forward on implementation.

Key Issues

The civil society dialogue included three segments that covered a range of key themes:

1. Keynote speech which underlined the need for governments to provide space and an enabling environment for civil society.
2. Dynamic moderated conversation with nominees of the Major Groups from Children & Youth, Women, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism and the co-facilitators of the SDG Summit political declaration on ensuring that the ambition captured during the SDG Mobilization Day will cascade into global action.



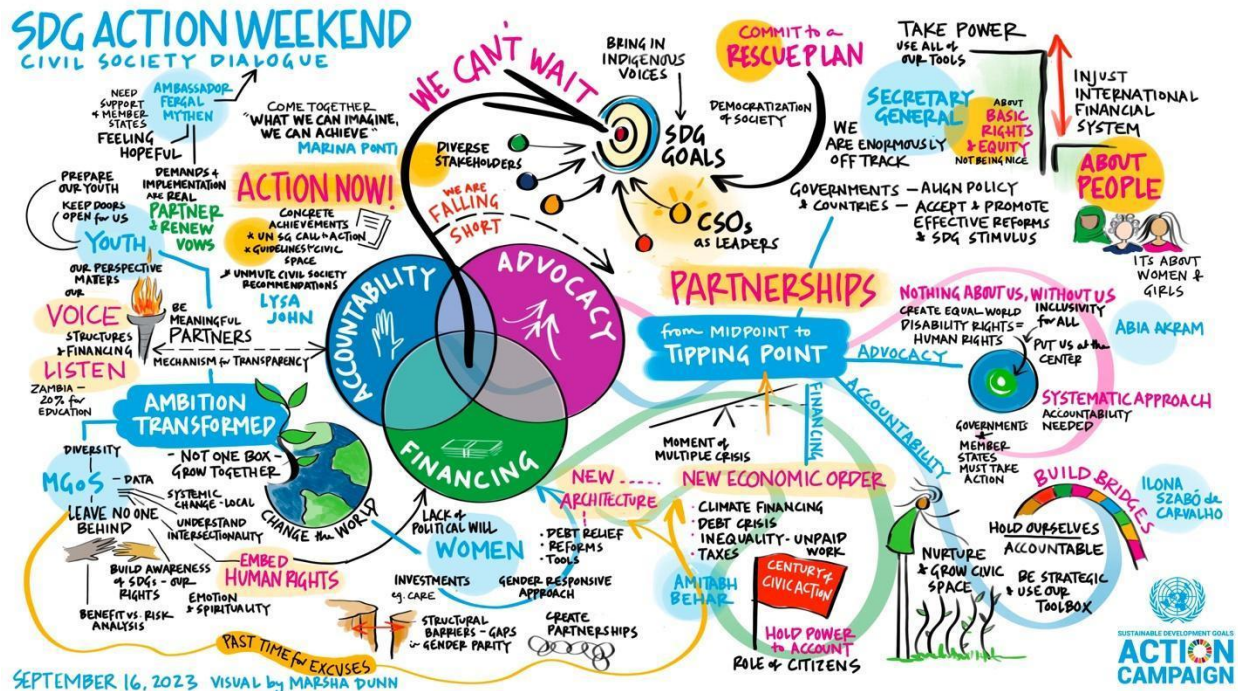
3. Dynamic moderated conversation with power speakers on what will it take to turn the SDGs into irreversible and sustained means for achieving well-being for people and planet everywhere.

Key Recommendations for Action

1. The SDG midpoint should be used to leverage clear commitments from the UN and governments in creating an enabling space for civil society.
2. Heads of State and Governments should renew their vows to the SDGs despite the challenges. Equally, all stakeholders should put words into actions and contribute to their implementation.
3. It is necessary to include more young people in decision making and invest in young people to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
4. The focus should shift from challenges to opportunities, from risk analysis to opportunity analysis. A human rights centered approach is essential to accelerate SDG implementation.
5. Place further emphasis on the gender implications of the reform of the International Financial Architecture. Need to utilize all tools at our disposal such as issuance of Special Drawing Rights to close the SDG financing gap.
6. "Power is not given. Power is taken (peacefully)." Rescuing the SDGs will not be possible without the leadership and action of civil society. Women, children, youth, indigenous and other groups are critical to "ending poverty and hunger and securing a sustainable planet".
7. With 16% of the global population disabled, much more needs to be done to include peoples with disabilities in decision making at all levels.
8. Corporates should pay a fair share of taxes to address income inequality. More investments are needed in public health and education to get the SDGs back on track and create an equal world.
9. More accountability from governments is necessary but also from civil society. CSOs should engage using all tools at their disposal, not only advocacy but also litigation and build coalitions across sectors.



Visual scribe Marsha Dunn created the following graphic capturing the most important points throughout the session:



For more information, please visit: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend/enhancing-advocacy-financing-and-accountability>.