



SDG Action Weekend (16 – 17 September 2023)

Enhancing Advocacy, Financing and Accountability: Key Messages from Civil Society to the
SDG Summit and Beyond
16 September 2023
14:00 – 16:00 EST

Concept Note

1. Background

Recognizing the important roles that civil society play in delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in mobilizing citizens, the **Civil Society Dialogue** is organized on the first day of the SDG Action Weekend ahead of the SDG Summit and UN General Assembly High-Level Week.

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.

In the midst of an unprecedented set of interlocking crises, and at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Civil Society is a major driving force for a transformative implementation of the SDGs.

The Civil Society Dialogue aims to contribute to the success of the SDG Summit 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.

2. Themes

The session will focus on **SDG mobilization through:**

- **Advocacy:** enhancing SDG advocacy / collaboration among multistakeholder partners (CSOs, private sector, academia, youth, creative sector), local and global social mobilization, intergenerational dialogue.
- **Financing:** unlocking development finance and establishing long-lasting affordable financing mechanisms through multistakeholder partnerships.
- **Accountability:** increased political commitment on means of implementation, accountable and inclusive institutions & societies.

3. Objectives

The Civil Society Dialogue will present an opportunity to build on the morning sessions of the SDG Mobilization Day by bringing together representatives from the Major Groups and other Stakeholders including representatives from civil society organizations, youth and women's groups, persons with disabilities and indigenous groups, among others.

The Civil Society Dialogue aims to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Bring together the main messages from civil society for the SDG Summit;
2. Create an opportunity for civil society to share key messages as they relate to the implementation of the Political Declaration for the SDG Summit;
3. Enable dialogue and exchange, including with high-level officials from the United Nations and other decision-makers to support and amplify collective action for the SDGs across civil society and grassroots organizations.

The key expected outcomes of the session are:

1. Enhanced the involvement of civic movements and groups in SDG advocacy by bringing them together with decision-makers ahead of the SDG Summit and the high-level week;
2. Generated key messages from civil society stakeholders as they relate to the implementation of the Political Declaration for the SDG Summit;
3. Shared key priorities with the leadership of the United Nations, and other decision-makers.

4. Agenda (14:00 – 16:00 EST)

High pace and dynamic session composed of the following type of discussions and sub sessions.

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| 14:00 – 14:15 EST | Welcome and Keynote Speech
Opening speech to set the stage on what is a stake and elevate which transformations are needed towards enhanced SDG advocacy, financing, and accountability. |
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| 14:15 – 15:00 EST | SDG Summit, ambition transformed
Dynamic moderated conversation with representatives 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. |
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| 15:00 – 16:00 EST | Turning the SDG midpoint into an SDG tipping point
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. |

Audience

UN Member States, Civil society – ECOSOC accredited NGOs, Major Groups, non-UN accredited civil society - academia, think tanks and private sector.

Focal points

The session is facilitated by the [UN SDG Action Campaign](#) and the [UN Foundation](#).

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