



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Perspectives from Major Groups and other Stakeholders: Partnerships for transformative and urgent actions

Friday, 12 July 2024, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Secretariat Background Note

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as enshrined in the UNGA resolution 67/290. They bring forth the voices and aspirations of many diverse stakeholders, often including those who are most marginalized and left behind and are key actors in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

The active participation of MGoS at all levels is crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. They contribute to 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 policymaking on critical issues affecting the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.



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The voices of MGoS have increased since the General Assembly endorsed Agenda 21 in its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, which established the original nine Major Groups (Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, 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 12 Other Stakeholders in all matters relating to the United Nations and its work in sustainable development; and made a commitment to work together with MGoS in addressing implementation gaps.

The following year, in its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the General Assembly made specific references, in paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22 and 24, 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.

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



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and review process.”¹ Its membership has grown from the original nine Major Groups listed above to include 15 other 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 have since been further reconfirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/290 of 25 June 2021, Parts A and B, concerning the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and review of the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum.

Against this background, 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 theme and the review of progress. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290, official 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 summaries of these position papers are available on the HLPF website as additional background to this session.²

¹ [Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference](#), 18 December 2020.

² <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/documentation>.



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This MGoS official session at the 2024 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 pursuit of achieving the 2030 Agenda. In the face of a range of challenges to participation of stakeholders, this session will consider ways to strengthen the engagement of MGoS to overcome the impact of crises and take forward SDG implementation. The session will hear from diverse stakeholders and non-state actors on the challenges and opportunities for delivery of the 2030 Agenda, as well as setting out recommendations for a more sustainable and human rights-centric approach to development.

Proposed questions for discussion

- In a world facing multiple crises and challenges, stakeholder participation in multilateral processes is more crucial than ever. What are the ways to strengthen the role of diverse stakeholders at the United Nations?
- How are stakeholders playing a critical role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? What are some good examples and case studies of stakeholder implementation?
- Building on the Secretary-General's mid-point review of the 2030 Agenda, what actions must be taken to ensure accountability and guarantee meaningful engagement of rights holders in order to deliver the 2030 Agenda over the coming six years?