
HANDBOOK

For the Participation of Major
Groups and Other Stakeholders
in the
High-Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development

2025 EDITION



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
I. Purpose of the Handbook	7
II. What is the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development?... 8	
A. HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC	9
• Activities leading up to the HLPF	10
• Other inputs to the HLPF	12
• Structure of the HLPF programme	13
• Outcome of the HLPF - the Ministerial Declaration	13
• Side events and exhibits	14
B. Review of the HLPF format and organizational aspects	14
C. HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (the SDG Summit)... 15	
• Activities leading up to the SDG Summit	15
• Outcome of the SDG Summit - Political Declaration	15
III. The Work of MGoS and its Coordination Mechanism (MGOS-CM)	17
A. Mandates	17
B. Terms of Reference	19
C. Collaboration with UN DESA	20
D. Engagement prior to the HLPF	20
E. Participation at the HLPF	28
F. Participation Metrics and Institutional Memory	31
G. Engagement at the SDG Summit	32
IV. Conclusions and Way Forward	33
Annex I: Members of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism	34
Annex II: Relevant General Assembly mandates	35
Annex III: Acronyms	41

Foreword



As President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its 2024-2025 cycle, I am honoured to introduce this handbook, a vital resource that captures the best practices, lessons learned and forward-looking strategies for civil society engagement with the United Nations system. I extend my sincere appreciation to UN DESA's Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) and the Organizing Partners of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS-CM) for their collaboration in producing this important tool.

The MGoS have long been essential partners in shaping and advancing the UN's sustainable development agenda. From the earliest negotiations at the 1992 UN Environment and Development Conference to the ongoing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they have brought forward the perspectives, expertise and lived experiences of communities around the world. Their contributions have consistently demonstrated the indispensable role of civil society in advancing inclusive, rights-based and sustainable development. Their voices, especially those of the most marginalized, must not only be heard—they must also be amplified in every forum where decisions are made.

Despite challenges such as technological limitations, language barriers, time zone differences and resource constraints, civil society has remained a steadfast contributor to ECOSOC's intergovernmental processes. It is more urgent than ever to ensure that civil society space is protected, respected and expanded.

During my Presidency, I have been proud to continue the practice—initiated by H.E. Lachezara Stoeva—of holding monthly meetings with the Major Groups and other Stakeholders. These regular dialogues provide a consistent platform for civil society to share insights, raise concerns and co-create solutions.

ECOSOC remains firmly committed to fostering a more inclusive multilateralism. We recognize that sustainable development is not the work of Governments alone. It is a shared endeavour that requires the insights, innovation and accountability that only civil society can provide. This handbook is both a testament to your contributions and a tool to strengthen your engagement moving forward.

“We the Peoples” is not just a phrase. The opening words of the United Nations Charter remind us that the UN is not solely the domain of states, but a collective endeavour of humanity. Sustainable development can only succeed when civil society is not only consulted, but also actively mobilized and meaningfully engaged at every step. Let us continue to build a United Nations that truly reflects this collective spirit. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind.

Bob Rae
President of ECOSOC 2024-2025

Co-Chairs of the MGoS-Coordination Mechanism



The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) stands as the centrepiece of global accountability for the 2030 Agenda. It is where the international community not only assesses progress but also reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development as a shared endeavour. This endeavour must include all voices.

Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/290, the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) have held a mandated role in this process each year. Our contributions are not symbolic; they are institutional and offer meaningful insights from communities all around the world. We participate in official sessions, submit inputs to intergovernmental processes and offer insights on the global review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The MGoS Coordination Mechanism represents thousands of organizations and networks across every region and constituency. These include Indigenous Peoples, Women, Children and Youth, NGOs, Farmers, Workers and Trade Unions, Scientific and Technological Communities, Local Authorities, Business and Industry, the LGBTI Community, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Academia, Communities Discriminated by Work and Descent, People of African Descent and many more. Together, we bring grassroots perspectives, technical expertise and lived realities—all of which are essential to grounded and effective policymaking.

This Handbook captures that role in practice. It is designed for two primary audiences:

For civil society and stakeholder groups, especially those newly entering this space, it serves as a navigational tool—demystifying procedures, setting out our role and encouraging deeper, more coordinated engagement.

For Member States, it documents how the participation of stakeholders has been operationalized over the years—offering clarity, precedent and a roadmap for strengthening inclusive multilateralism.

Our Coordination Mechanism is built on mutual understanding, consensus, transparency and collective action. We believe the goals of the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved through government action alone, nor through advocacy in isolation. Progress demands collaboration, political will and participatory governance.

As we enter the final five years of the SDG timeline, we call on Member States to protect and expand spaces for meaningful engagement. And we stand with civil society actors around the world who continue to organize, advocate and drive change under increasingly difficult conditions.

This Handbook addresses a practical necessity. The complex challenges we face, from climate collapse to inequality and conflict, cannot be addressed through top-down approaches alone. Participatory governance is a proven method for building resilient, inclusive and accountable societies.

We thank the President of ECOSOC for his unwavering support, and we look forward to continuing this shared work—guided by the principle at the heart of the 2030 Agenda: no one left behind, and no voice left out.

Rashima Kwatra & Oli Henman
MGoS Coordination Mechanism Co-Chairs, July 2025

Purpose of the Handbook

The purpose of this Handbook is to serve as a reference and a guide for the full and meaningful participation of [Major Groups and other Stakeholders](#) (MGoS) in the [UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) and related processes at national, regional and global levels that support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

It outlines the opportunities for MGoS to participate in the work of the HLPF convened annually under the auspices of the [Economic and Social Council](#), including activities leading up to it, and in the HLPF convened every four years under the auspices of the [General Assembly](#) (GA) also called the SDG Summit.

The Handbook is also a useful resource for Member States, UN system entities and others who seek to understand the legitimacy of MGoS and the central role they play as valued partners in sustainable development, as recognized by the GA in numerous resolutions that underscore the importance of civil society voices, stakeholder contributions and the need for collaboration to achieve the SDGs.

The participation of MGoS is guided by its Coordination Mechanism through its governance structure and procedures for official participation in intergovernmental deliberations, comprising members with expertise in global leadership and experience implementing the SDGs at all levels.



What is the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development?

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the United Nations' main political body for the follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

Before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was drafted, the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) led to a decision by the General Assembly (resolution 66/288, Section IV.b, paragraphs 84–86) to create a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum on sustainable development. This forum was established to replace the 53-member Commission on Sustainable Development, which was a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

In the following year, the General Assembly, in its [resolution 67/290](#), defined the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF.

The General Assembly decided that the HLPF would:

1. Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development,
2. Follow up and review the progress achieved in the implementation of sustainable development commitments,
3. Enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and
4. Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

Resolution 67/290 further defined the scope of MGoS participation in the HLPF (see annex II), stressing the need for the forum to “promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise.”

Resolution 67/290 also decided that representatives of MGoS could:

- Attend all official meetings of the forum;
- Have access to all official information and documents;
- Intervene in official meetings;
- Submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- make recommendations; and
- Organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.

Every July, the HLPF meets under the auspices of ECOSOC for eight days, of which three are held at the ministerial level under a theme set by Member States to take stock of global progress towards a set of SDGs. The HLPF meets every four years for an additional two days in September at the Heads of State and Government level (the SDG Summit) under the auspices of the GA. Both take place at UN Headquarters in New York.

The [Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development](#) (OISC) of the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA) serves as the Secretariat of the HLPF.



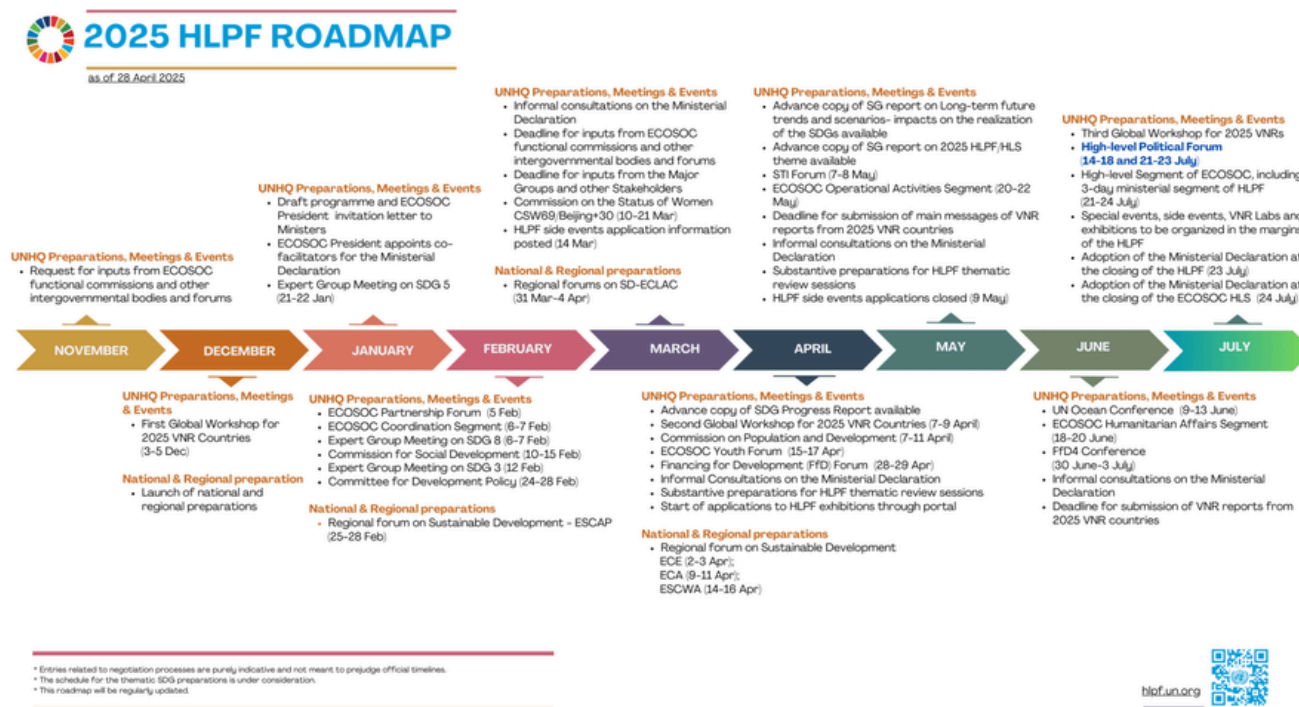
PHOTO CREDIT ©IISD/ENB - KIARA WORTH

HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

The HLPF brings together delegations of UN Member States, including ministers and government officials, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, Major Groups and other Stakeholders, experts and other representatives from civil society including the private sector to discuss progress in follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Activities leading up to the HLPF

Throughout the year, numerous meetings and activities at the national, regional and international level provide important inputs to the HLPF. These are guided by ECOSOC, the Regional Economic Commissions and other entities. The activities most relevant to MGoS in the timeline leading up to the HLPF are highlighted below:



Voluntary National Reviews

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven. These [Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNRs) are presented at the HLPF annually in July in New York. VNRs are voluntary, State-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve a wide range of stakeholders. VNRs facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

They seek to ensure a whole-of-society approach at country level, to strengthen policies through mutual learning and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

Countries indicate their interest in presenting a VNR early in the year, and the process of conducting and preparing the VNR report is undertaken by Governments, stakeholders and the UN system during the months leading up to the HLPF.

Learn more about the VNRs, including the VNR **Guidelines**, the **VNR Handbook** and the **VNR Database**.

Expert Group Meetings

UN DESA coordinates dedicated Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) on the SDGs under in-depth review at the HLPF in collaboration with relevant UN entities. The reports of those meetings feed into the processes for the SDGs under review at the up-coming HLPF.



PHOTO CREDIT ©IISD/ENB - KIARA WORTH

Regional Sustainable Development Forums

The GA, in its [resolution 67/290](#), acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the HLPF, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, MGoS and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. These regional forums are held a few months prior to the HLPF and are organized by the five Regional Economic Commissions—located in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Western Asia.

In addition, a number of ECOSOC meetings and forums also serve to prepare for the annual HLPF.

ECOSOC Partnership Forum and Coordination Segment

The first official meetings of the year are the ECOSOC Partnership Forum and Coordination Segment. SDG action segments are organized in collaboration with relevant UN entities and recognized MGoS with expertise in the specific SDGs in focus.

Youth Forum

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is an annual initiative of the President of the Council. As the main platform for youth to share their ideas at the global level, the Forum allows representatives of youth-led and youth-focused organizations and networks, youth advocates and other youth stakeholders to dialogue with Member States and to explore ways and means of promoting youth development and engagement.

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

As mandated by the GA [resolution 70/1](#) on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the President of ECOSOC convenes a meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) once a year to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the SDGs.

Other inputs to the HLPF

The HLPF receives official reports to inform and facilitate its deliberations. These are made available on the “Documentation” webpage for each HLPF meeting:

- Report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs
- Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the HLPF and ECOSOC
- Report of the Secretary-General on long-term impacts of current trends on the realization of the SDGs
- Compilation of main messages from VNRs
- MGoS position papers, with executive summaries consolidated into one report
- Reports from the regional sustainable development forums
- Summaries of EGMs
- ECOSOC report on Financing for Development
- Report of the Committee for Development Policy
- Background notes for the thematic review sessions
- Fact sheets on the SDGs under review

- The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), prepared by an independent group of scientists appointed by the Secretary-General and coordinated by UN DESA, informs the deliberations of the HLPF by providing a science-based assessment of global progress towards the SDGs. Released every four years (2019, 2023 and next in 2027), the report synthesizes the latest research and policy insights, offering recommendations on how to accelerate action and overcome challenges in achieving sustainable development.

Structure of the HLPF programme

The HLPF official programme includes thematic review sessions, VNR presentations and other events during the eight days of the HLPF. Sessions are usually held from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Sessions held in the first five days are intended to assess progress on the SDGs designated by the GA for review; to discuss themes such as finance, local action and the outcomes of the STI Forum; and to address the needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, middle-income countries and Small Island Developing States. A session is also dedicated for the views of the MGoS.

The final three days of the HLPF are held at the ministerial level within the ECOSOC Ministerial Segment, including the presentation of VNR reports and a General Debate. Once the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC concludes, there is one additional day of discussions held as part of the [ECOSOC High Level Segment \(HLS\)](#), during which the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and the long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the SDGs are presented, along with the report of the Committee on Development Policy.

Outcome of the ECOSOC High-level Segment and the HLPF: The Ministerial Declaration

The Ministerial Declaration is adopted as the outcome document of the HLS and the HLPF when convened under the auspices of ECOSOC. When the HLPF is also convened under the auspices of the GA, a Political Declaration is adopted. Member States begin negotiations on the text, under the guidance of co-facilitators from two Member States (one from the developed countries and one from the developing countries). The co-facilitators are appointed by the President of ECOSOC, well in advance of the ECOSOC HLS and HLPF in July. MGoS have traditionally been able to contribute their views to the process.

The Ministerial Declaration is ideally adopted by consensus, although in some years some Member States have called for a vote on specific paragraphs preceding its adoption by consensus at the closing of the HLPF and at the closing of the ECOSOC HLS.

The Ministerial Declaration reinforces commitments to the 2030 Agenda and serves to reflect the promise of Member States to implement the SDGs, taking due account of **the key challenges and opportunities**.

Side events and exhibits

Side Events are organized on the margins of the HLPF and sponsored by Member States, the UN system, organizations with ECOSOC consultative status and by MGoS. These side events are held outside the official programme and provide opportunities to discuss themes and SDGs under review at the HLPF more in-depth, and to increase awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

Exhibitions are also organized on the margins of the HLPF. Member States, the UN system, civil society, private sector and other organizations showcase their organization's work on implementation of the SDGs.

Review of the HLPF format and organizational aspects

The GA periodically reviews the HLPF's format and organizational aspects, as outlined in its founding resolutions, to enhance its effectiveness in promoting sustainable development.

The first review in 2021, as reflected in GA [resolution 75/290 B](#) on “Review of the implementation of General Assembly [resolutions 67/290](#) on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and [70/299](#) on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”, enhanced the HLPF by strengthening thematic alignment with ECOSOC, improving VNRs, reinforcing regional and thematic linkages, increasing multi-stakeholder engagement, refining the Ministerial Declaration process and ensuring periodic reviews for greater effectiveness in SDG follow-up and implementation. It also reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to being open, inclusive, participatory and transparent, and underscored the active role of major groups and other stakeholders in all aspects of its work, including review processes and side events. The GA also decided the themes and SDGs to be reviewed in 2022 and 2023.

This emphasis on stakeholder engagement built on provisions contained in [resolution 70/299](#), which encouraged Member States to involve stakeholders in voluntary national reviews and supported the use of web-based tools to enable broad and balanced participation by region and by organization type. The resolution also reiterated the call to major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Further reinforcing this commitment, [resolution 72/305](#) recognized the Economic and Social Council as a key platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, and encouraged the active participation of civil society, youth, private sector and other stakeholders in the Council's work. It also invited the Council to consider applying stakeholder engagement modalities used in the HLPF across its segments, while maintaining its intergovernmental nature.

At its second review in 2023, the GA, in its [resolution 78/285](#), decided on the themes and specific SDGs for 2025, 2026 and 2027. It also agreed to review fully at its 80th session the arrangements contained in resolutions [75/290A](#) and [75/290B](#).

HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (the SDG Summit)

When held under the auspices of the GA every fourth year, the HLPF convenes at the level of Heads of State and Government, as set out in the 2030 Agenda, “to provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation” (2030 Agenda, para 87).

The SDG Summit is a more significant and strategic gathering, convened by the President of the GA. It is a centrepiece of the high-level week of the GA, providing a comprehensive review of progress on all 17 SDGs, rather than focusing on a subset of goals.

Activities leading up to the SDG Summit

Action Days / SDG Weekend

Ahead of the [2023 SDG Summit](#), [UN DESA](#) and the [UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General](#) organized a two-day SDG Action Days weekend.

This allowed for a diverse range of stakeholder groups to host their own side events and to propose speakers in a series of panel dialogues alongside member states on key issues relating to the acceleration of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Outcome of the SDG Summit: The Political Declaration

The outcome document is a Political Declaration that renews global commitments, sets priorities and identifies critical areas for accelerating SDG implementation. This format aims to enhance global momentum and leadership, ensuring that sustainable development remains a top priority in international policymaking. The 2023 SDG Summit also included as a second outcome a list of acceleration actions and national commitments that were pledged by member states, UN system and stakeholders. These are hosted on the [SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform](#) and aim to demonstrate additional steps that are planned over the second half of the 2030 Agenda. The GA will convene the third SDG Summit in September 2027.



The Work of MGoS and its Coordination Mechanism (MGoS-CM)

This section of the Handbook outlines the opportunities for MGoS to participate fully in the HLPF convened under the auspices of ECOSOC each year, and in the SDG Summit held every four years, including opportunities for engagement and contributions in the months leading up to both the HLPF and SDG Summit.

Mandates

Nine Major Groups of civil society were recognized in the context of sustainable development by Agenda 21, the outcome document of the [United Nations Conference on Environment and Development](#) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 3-14 June 1992. Agenda 21 was subsequently adopted by the GA in its [resolution 47/190](#) of 22 December 1992. The nine Major Groups were defined as Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Local Authorities and Farmers.

The nine Major Groups expanded into the Major Groups and other Stakeholders following subsequent decisions taken by the GA, namely [resolution 66/288](#) in 2012, referring to the Rio+20 Outcome document “The Future We Want”, which listed specific additional stakeholder groups: Local Communities, Volunteer Groups, Foundations, Older Persons, and Persons with Disabilities. GA [resolution 67/290](#) of 9 July 2013, which established the HLPF, also referenced Philanthropic Organizations and Educational and Academic Entities as specific additional stakeholder groups.

The MGoS have since expanded to 22 constituency groups, including the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanism, Together 2030, LGBTI, Communities Discriminated by Work and Descent and People of African Descent, as well as regional mechanisms in Africa, Asia and Europe. The breadth of MGoS membership and partnership brings to the regional and global levels the voices and concerns of a wide-ranging, diverse and intersectional group of people around the world.

In [resolution 67/290](#), the GA made reference, in paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, and 24, to participation of **MGoS** and their **active involvement in all activities pertaining to the HLPF at all levels**. The GA:

- Decided the forum shall provide a “platform for partnerships”, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders; (para. 8c)
- Acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant region entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate; (para. 13)
- Decided that representatives of major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed to:
 - o attend all official meetings of the forum
 - o have access to all official information and documents
 - o intervene in official meetings
 - o submit documents and present written and oral contributions
 - o make recommendations
 - o organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat
- Encouraged MGoS, active in areas related to sustainable development to autonomously establish and maintain an effective coordination mechanism for participation in the HLPF 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; (para.16)
- Requested the President of the GA and the President of ECOSOC to coordinate with the Bureau of the Council and with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly to organize the activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate; (para. 22)
- Requested the Secretary-General to carry over all the remaining funds from the Trust for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to a voluntary trust fund of the forum in order to facilitate the participation of developing countries, the least developed countries (LDCs), representatives of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum and to support the preparations of the forum, and in this regard invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the forum; (para.24)

Representatives of MGoS are thus able to participate fully in the HLPF in numerous different ways. However, when Member States conduct informal consultations on the HLPF Ministerial Declaration, the decision for MGoS participation rests with the co-facilitators.

Terms of Reference

As referred to above, the GA, in [resolution 67/290](#) paragraph 16, encouraged MGoS to “maintain an effective coordination mechanism”, which is commonly known as the [Major Groups & other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism \(MGoS-CM\)](#). This body, which comprises representatives of all the constituencies, is responsible for facilitating MGoS involvement in all aspects of the HLPF processes and relevant relationships.

For further information, see the MGoS website: <https://www.MGoS.org/about-MGoS/>

Terms of Reference have been established for its governance procedures, covering issues such as its mandate, membership, activities, elections of officers and their responsibilities and the establishment of Task Groups.

The **Task Groups** play an essential role in facilitating the participation of MGoS in the HLPF and related processes. They are involved in:

- Selection of participants in meetings of HLPF and related process, taking due account of relevant expertise, gender, regional balance, etc.
- Selection of recipients for funding to attend HLPF
- Preparing inputs to the HLPF such as drafting of the Ministerial Declaration and Declaration of the Summit, inputs on the SDGs under review as well as discussions on the review process
- Organizing the MGoS session of the HLPF
- Organizing the MGoS side event
- Organizing the pre-HLPF event
- Organizing events and training related to the VNRs, as well as preparing for comments on VNRs during the HLPF
- Preparing advocacy material, including drafting inputs for statements made on behalf of the MGoS
- Preparing communications material
- Monitoring implementation of and updating the Terms of Reference

Collaboration with UN DESA

UN DESA has a leadership role in economic and social issues within the United Nations Secretariat, under the direction of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies (<https://www.un.org/en/desa>). It upholds the development pillar of the United Nations and helps countries translate their global commitments into national action in the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

UN DESA's OISC serves as the Secretariat for the HLPF, providing substantive support to the work of ECOSOC, including the HLPF. OISC guides and supports the MGoS-CM in its work related to the HLPF and other relevant processes under ECOSOC. During the year, the MGoS-CM meets regularly with the President of ECOSOC and with the Director of OISC to discuss procedures, status of preparations, registration and other relevant issues.

MGoS engagement prior to the HLPF

The MGoS-CM collaborates with UN DESA to prepare a roadmap to chart the course of all the steps that need to be taken in preparation for the HLPF each year, from the time of announcement of the list of VNRs to be submitted to the HLPF, usually around October, up to the convening of the HLPF in the following year. This roadmap provides a general overview of the different processes, upcoming events and deadlines for action (e.g. registration, submission of nominations for speaking opportunities, participation opportunities in events).

ECOSOC Partnership Forum

For the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, the MGoS-CM is invited by UN DESA to put forward names for participation in the Planning Committee and Action Segment Planning Committees and for speakers, including for the action segments from the MGoS members with experience in the topics under discussion. The candidates are chosen through the Selection Task Force, which seeks nominations from members of the MGoS-CM. Sometimes there are opportunities for other participants to speak from the floor during the session, particularly during the action segments.

Position papers submitted by MGoS

The HLPF receives each year a compilation of the executive summaries of the position papers on the theme and SDGs to be reviewed, submitted by the MGoS.

UN DESA notifies the MGoS-CM of the deadline and word limit for the submission of the Executive Summaries, which are consolidated into one document and translated into all [official UN languages](#) for submission to the HLPF in the list of reports it receives for consideration.

The full report of each position paper has no specific word limit and is not translated. It is placed on the HLPF website in its entirety.

VNRs – at national, regional and global levels

The MGoS-CM is responsible for ensuring stakeholder engagement in the HLPF's VNR sessions. Every year, once the list of countries that will present a VNR is published, the MGoS-CM begins a process to request expressions of interest from any stakeholder group that is actively engaged in the SDGs in their VNR country through various activities.

To ensure an inclusive process, an invitation is sent out by January to inform all MGoS of the countries under review. Individual stakeholder group members are invited to join a webinar to learn more about the VNR process and are requested to fill in a short form to show their expertise and interest.

Those stakeholder groups that are active in any of the VNR countries can volunteer through the form to join a drafting team to prepare a short collective statement to be presented by the elected speaker at the HLPF. The VNR task group is responsible for facilitating the engagement process and coordinates it closely with UN DESA.

MGoS informs Member States about the importance of stakeholder engagement and the MGoS process for the VNR sessions during VNR workshops organized by UN DESA. Representatives of the VNR task group take part in the VNR workshops with presentations and Q&A sessions. Additionally, MGoS actively engages in VNR labs during the HLPF, sharing knowledge on the importance of stakeholder engagement at all stages of SDG implementation.

Expert Group Meetings

Each year, EGMs are convened by UN DESA and relevant UN agencies for each of the SDGs under thematic review at the upcoming HLPF. UN DESA liaises with the MGoS-CM to ensure inclusive participation of MGoS representatives in these expert group meetings. Calls for nominations are sent through constituency mailing lists and include criteria such as proven expertise on the SDG in question, regional and gender balance and representation from historically marginalized groups.

The MGoS Selection Task Force evaluates nominations, ensuring that at least one civil society expert is included in each EGM, and ideally from a constituency directly impacted by the SDG focus area.

For example:

- In [the 2023 EGM on SDG 11 \(Sustainable Cities\)](#), an Indigenous land rights advocate nominated by the Local Authorities constituency presented on informal housing justice.
- In [the 2025 EGM on SDG 3 \(Health\)](#), representatives from the Persons with Disabilities and LGBTI constituencies highlighted barriers to inclusive health systems.

MGoS participants can contribute either as panellists or through written case studies. Their contributions are reflected in EGM outcome reports, which are referenced in HLPF background notes and other official documents or reports. The process ensures that civil society is not only represented but also substantively integrated into the evidence base that informs the global SDG review.



Regional Forums

In accordance with GA [resolution 67/290](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(A/RES/70/1\)](#), MGoS have the right to participate in the “regional dimension” of sustainable development implementation.

This participation is institutionalized through the annual **Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (RFSDs)**, convened by the five UN Regional Commissions ([UNRCs](#)). MGoS are formally invited to contribute to the planning and content of the RFSDs through dedicated mechanisms—particularly through the [Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanisms \(RCEMs\)](#) in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe.

In practice, MGoS engagement includes:

- Co-organizing civil society pre-forum consultations (often held 1–2 days before the RFSD) to consolidate regional perspectives.
- Participating in official plenaries and side events, including as speakers, moderators, and discussants.
- Contributing to and co-authoring the civil society position papers or messages that are submitted to the Regional Forum and subsequently reflected in the RFSD Chair’s Summary.

Participation is not limited to organizations with ECOSOC consultative status. The registration process through the UN Indico system includes pathways for unaccredited organizations, ensuring that grassroots and community-based groups can engage meaningfully.

Crucially, the outcomes of RFSDs—including civil society messages—are transmitted to the global dialogue at the HLPF. These regional positions shape the thematic discussions and influence the Ministerial Declaration.

For example:

- In 2022, the Asia-Pacific RCEM successfully advocated for the inclusion of language on digital equity and civic space.
- In 2023, the African civil society group input led to the HLPF reflecting stronger language on climate finance for adaptation.

Through these mechanisms, the RFSDs provide a vital conduit for MGoS to influence not only regional but also global sustainable development policymaking.



PHOTO CREDIT ©IISD/ENB - KIARA WORTH

STI Forum

The STI Forum for the SDGs is convened annually under the auspices of ECOSOC and co-organized by UN DESA and the [Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs \(IATT\)](#), with support from the 10-Member Group appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The STI Forum is a key platform for identifying technology needs, gaps and opportunities related to the implementation of the SDGs.

The MGoS-CM is officially notified by UN DESA about opportunities to participate in the STI Forum, typically several months in advance. The MGoS-CM Selection Task Force applies the same criteria used for the HLPF—ensuring regional, gender, thematic and constituency balance in nominations.

MGoS roles in the STI Forum include:

- Nominating civil society experts to serve as speakers, discussants or moderators in official sessions on topics such as digital inclusion, emerging technologies, Indigenous knowledge systems and artificial intelligence governance.
- Submitting written inputs or case studies in response to thematic questions posed by the co-chairs or the Secretariat.
- Organizing or co-organizing side events and innovation showcases on grassroots technological solutions to climate, health and education challenges.

Recent examples include:

- In 2023, a representative from the [Women's Major Group](#) gave a presentation on gender bias in artificial intelligence algorithms and digital literacy gaps.
- In 2024, an Indigenous technologist from the [Scientific and Technological Community Major Group](#) co-moderated a session on nature-based technology solutions, bringing perspectives from traditional ecological knowledge.

MGoS inputs to the STI Forum are captured in the Chair's Summary and inform the STI component of the HLPF's annual review. They are also shared with the [Technology Facilitation Mechanism \(TFM\)](#), helping shape global recommendations for capacity-building and technology transfer in line with SDG 17.

The STI Forum is an increasingly strategic space for MGoS to advance human rights-based, ethics-informed and community-driven approaches to innovation and development.

ECOSOC Youth Forum

The ECOSOC Youth Forum has been a central platform for youth to influence SDG implementation and accountability, led by the [Major Group for Children and Youth \(MGCY\)](#). Under the leadership of the MGCY, youth constituencies co-design the agenda alongside UN DESA and the [UN Youth Envoy](#).

For example, in 2024, a youth statement was read from the ECOSOC podium and included in the official record. Stakeholders co-led roundtables on climate justice, youth employment and digital rights, setting best practice for integrating youth voices across intergovernmental fora.

Contribution to the Ministerial Declaration

UN DESA notifies the MGoS-CM of the launch of negotiations and the relevant timeline. The MGoS-CM then coordinates the submission of written inputs on behalf of its 22 constituencies. These inputs respond to the **Zero Draft** of the Ministerial Declaration and are submitted directly to the co-facilitators appointed by the President of ECOSOC. They include collective recommendations on themes such as equity, civic space, intergenerational justice, climate ambition, gender equality and leaving no one behind.

For example, in 2025, the MGoS-CM submitted written responses to the Elements Paper, and twice to the Zero Draft, including collective input as well as those from specific constituencies.

Speaking Roles in Informal Consultations:

The MGoS-CM is formally allocated **two speaking slots** during the initial rounds of open intergovernmental negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration:

1. **Opening Intervention:** At the start of the informal consultations, two representatives are invited to deliver joint MGoS statements outlining core stakeholder priorities and suggestions for the key areas to be covered in the ‘Elements Paper’.
2. **Zero Draft Intervention:** During a subsequent consultation (typically after circulation of the Zero Draft), two speakers are again invited to offer specific proposals and suggestions—highlighting key aspects for civil society and stakeholder communities.

For example, in 2024, these interventions were delivered by representatives of the [NGO Major Group](#) and the [Indigenous Peoples Major Group \(IPMG\)](#) during consultations on 27 March and 19 April respectively and were part of the official consultation summaries published by UN DESA.

Consultations with the Co-Facilitators of the Ministerial Declaration

While MGoS are not present during paragraph-by-paragraph negotiations between Member States, their inputs are formally acknowledged by the co-facilitators. In multiple years, including 2023 and 2024, the co-facilitators referenced stakeholder interventions in their summary remarks and “elements papers.”

In a significant precedent for inclusive and transparent multilateral negotiations, the 2025 process for drafting the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF included a formalized process of structured engagement between the co-facilitators and the MGoS-CM.

At the invitation of the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Bob Rae of Canada, the co-facilitators for the 2025 Ministerial Declaration—H.E. Mr. Jakub Kulháněk, Permanent Representative of Czechia, and H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—participated in three consultations with the MGoS-CM during the course of the negotiations.

These consultations took place during the President’s monthly stakeholder coordination meetings, and separately they occurred:

- Prior to the release of the Zero Draft, during which MGoS-CM presented high-level thematic priorities and cross-cutting issues such as civic space, equity and financing gaps.

- Following circulation of the Zero Draft, during which MGoS-CM delivered a consolidated written critique and suggested language amendments across multiple paragraphs.
- After the first informal negotiations, during which the co-facilitators shared reflections on Member State dynamics and received additional stakeholder feedback on outstanding gaps.

Notably, the co-facilitators invited MGoS-CM to submit written statements summarizing stakeholder priorities. The co-facilitators publicly acknowledged the importance of these consultations in shaping inclusive deliberations, and cited MGoS contributions during their briefings to ECOSOC and informal updates to delegations.

This model of early, midstream, and post-informal consultation between co-facilitators and the MGoS-CM sets a valuable precedent for civil society engagement in future Ministerial Declaration negotiations, as well as for processes under the GA such as the Summit of the Future.

Post-Consultation Transparency

The MGoS-CM regularly publishes its submissions and statements on www.MGoS.org, ensuring full transparency and enabling broader accountability to stakeholders globally.



Participation at the HLPF

The [HLPF official programme](#) includes a range of formal sessions—from thematic reviews of SDGs and VNRs to high-level ministerial dialogues. Participation in these sessions by MGoS is a key modality of stakeholder engagement, as outlined in GA [resolution 67/290](#). MGoS have dedicated seats in the conference room, with nine seats specifically dedicated to each of the nine original Major Groups and an additional three seats shared by the additional stakeholder groups.

Entry points for participation in the official programme of the HLPF

MGoS session- Members of the MGoS-CM work with UN DESA to organize this official session to showcase their views. The MGoS-CM prepares the concept note, programme and run-of-show, and selects the speakers and the moderator. This is the most important opportunity for MGoS to highlight their work and present their views and recommendations on the SDGs under review and other topics.

Thematic review sessions- Representatives of MGoS are nominated by the MGoS-CM to participate as **lead discussants** in each thematic review session of the HLPF held during the first week, including sessions on the SDGs under review, regional perspectives, countries in special situations, local action and others. The aim of the lead discussant is to provide reactions to the panel speakers in the thematic review sessions. In addition, representatives of MGoS are invited by the Chair of each thematic review session, time permitting, to contribute to the **open discussion**, speaking from their dedicated seats on the floor of the conference room.

VNR presentations- MGoS speakers are selected to ask questions and provide feedback following VNR presentations. These speakers are coordinated well in advance of the HPLF by the MGoS VNR Task Group.

General debate of the ECOSOC HLS- MGoS are invited to deliver short interventions during the General Debate of the ECOSOC HLS.

Side events

The MGoS-CM Events Task Group prepares a joint side event at the HLPF. This includes preparation of the concept note, outline of the topic and agenda as well as selection of the speakers, based on input from the MGoS-CM. The Task Group is responsible for organizing the logistics in coordination with the Secretariat, sending out invitations to the speakers, preparing the flyers and other related tasks.

Individual MGoS may organize their own virtual side events or special events in collaboration with others. If they wish to organize in-person events, it is strongly advised to collaborate with Member States, UN entities or other partners, as UN Headquarters can accommodate only a limited number of in-person events.

There are also opportunities for additional side events to be hosted in surrounding buildings around the UN, and online.

Nomination and Selection Process for MGoS speakers in official HLPF sessions

Candidates with relevant expertise are chosen through the Selection Task Force, which seeks nominations from members of the MGoS-CM. The Selection Task Force of the MGoS-CM coordinates the nomination process, issuing an open call for expressions of interest and inviting representatives from all 22 MGoS constituencies.

Selection criteria include:

- Demonstrated expertise on the SDG(s) or theme under discussion,
- Regional and gender balance,
- Representation of marginalized or underrepresented communities.

Registration

There are different categories of eligibility and entitlements for registration for the HLPF, as follows:

- (a) Organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC can request temporary grounds passes for the duration of the HLPF, in addition to their annual grounds passes.
- (b) UN DESA provides each of the MGoS constituencies with additional temporary UN Grounds Passes for the duration of the HLPF. These additional passes are granted to what is known as an “umbrella organization”, one of the focal points within each MGoS constituency. The purpose is to provide opportunities to civil society representatives that are engaged in the implementation of Agenda 2030, who would not otherwise have an opportunity to engage and participate in the HLPF deliberations.

Registration for HLPF and related processes is carried out under the **Indico** system, for which information and deadlines are made available in advance. In the case of registration for additional meetings, such as the SDG Summit, that are directly under GA guidelines, there is a separate registration procedure.

Funding

Subject to availability of resources, UN DESA may provide funding to a limited number of participants from developing countries to attend and participate in the HLPF each year. Participants are nominated by the MGoS constituency groups. The MGoS-CM then conducts a selection process through its Selection Task Group and submits nominees to UN DESA.

Pre-HLPF Orientation Session

The MGoS-CM Events Task Group organizes a pre-HLPF Orientation Session, in collaboration with UN DESA, which aims to prepare MGoS for the HLPF, particularly for the benefit of newcomers. In addition to explaining the logistics of participation, the goal is to also highlight the policy areas under consideration, so that members of the MGoS can understand the possible impact on their work at the national, regional and global levels. It is also an opportunity to make connections and meet other MGoS to share information about each other's work.



PHOTO CREDIT ©IISD/ENB - KIARA WORTH



Participation Metrics and Institutional Memory

Participation by the MGoS in the HLPF has grown in scope, depth and consistency since the Forum's inception. While the MGoS-CM does not maintain a centralized database, significant institutional memory has been retained through constituency documentation, DESA records and published HLPF reports.

Indicative participation trends (as of 2024):

- Over 190 MGoS-led or co-hosted side events have taken place across eight HLPF cycles [1], many of which were held within UN Headquarters in partnership with UN agencies or Member States.
- MGoS speakers have participated in more than 120 official sessions—including as lead discussants, moderators, or floor speakers—across thematic reviews, VNRs and high-level dialogues. [2]
- At least 75 collective position papers, spotlight reports and executive summaries have been submitted to the HLPF via the official documentation portal and disseminated through the UN DESA website. [3]

Additional markers of institutional memory include:

- Archived MGoS interventions and events are consistently accessible through UN Web TV, which provides a transparent public record of civil society contributions.
- Several MGoS constituencies (e.g., Women, Indigenous Peoples, Children & Youth) publish annual reports and reflections documenting their engagement, priorities and lessons learned from the HLPF process.
- The President of ECOSOC's annual summaries of the HLPF have consistently cited stakeholder participation and reflected key points raised by MGoS during official sessions.

Institutional Learning and Precedent Setting:

- The repeated and recognized involvement of MGoS has helped shape procedural norms, such as the allocation of floor speaker slots, civil society seats on expert panels and stakeholder consultations in VNR follow-up.
- MGoS participation has been formalized not just as a tradition but as a component of multilateral practice under GA resolutions 67/290 and 70/1.

[1] This is an estimate, not a result of a formal audit. It should be framed as an indicative figure, not a verified dataset. Source: HLPF official side event calendars posted annually on <https://hlpf.un.org>.

[2] This is a rounded total based on available program records, not a comprehensive count.

[3] Estimate based on documents available at <https://mgos.org/> and individual constituency websites, and UN DESA's HLPF documentation pages.

Engagement at the SDG Summit

In the lead-up to the HLPF convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit) in 2023, the MGoS-CM partnered with UN DESA and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to co-design and co-lead the **SDG Action Weekend**, from 16 to 17 September 2023. The weekend featured two full days of stakeholder-led programming within the UN Headquarters, known as the SDG Mobilization Day and the SDG Acceleration Day.

During these Action Days:

- MGoS constituencies curated sessions on Leave No One Behind, planetary boundaries, civic space and intersectional accountability.
- More than 30 events were organized with MGoS collaboration or leadership, drawing participation from Children & Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Persons with Disabilities, Workers and Trade Unions, LGBTI and other constituencies.
- The MGoS-CM supported the logistics and content of the official Plenary Stakeholder Dialogue, which welcomed remarks from the Deputy Secretary-General and ministers from Brazil, Germany and Sierra Leone.
- Stakeholder contributions were woven into the Acceleration and Accountability Platform and acknowledged in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

This inclusive structure marked a historic step toward the institutionalization of stakeholder engagement in UN high-level processes—setting a template for future multilateral engagement, including the Summit of the Future.

During the SDG Summit, the MGoS-CM hosted a two-hour plenary session, which included the participation of the UN Deputy-Secretary-General and several Member States. This session aimed to set out the key priorities for Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda.

MGoS speakers were invited to speak or moderate a wide number of sessions, including speakers in the GA Hall with the UN Secretary-General and other key leaders. In addition, the MGoS-CM was invited to propose a speaker for the opening of the SDG Summit.

Contribution to the Political Declaration of the Summit

Following a similar pattern to the HLPF Ministerial Declaration, MGoS actively participate in the preparation of the SDG Summit Political Declaration. The initial stages of negotiations include direct verbal inputs from stakeholders and written inputs, to suggest key themes to be included. The co-facilitators also host additional briefings with the MGoS-CM to seek specific inputs and feedback on the text.

Conclusions and Way Forward

Agenda 2030: five more years to go

With only five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, active engagement in the 2030 Agenda is more critical than ever. The upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will play a pivotal role in shaping national commitments and follow-up strategies.

At present, the themes and SDGs under review have been confirmed through the next SDG Summit in 2027. The final three years of the roadmap will be determined during the ECOSOC/HLPF review scheduled for spring 2026.

2026 HLPF

The theme for the 2026 ECOSOC and HLPF will be:

“Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all”

The following SDGs will undergo an in-depth review of progress:

- Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

2027 HLPF

The theme for the 2027 ECOSOC and HLPF will be:

“Scaling up just transitions to achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty, and fully implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs”

The SDGs selected for in-depth review are:

- Goal 4 – Quality Education
- Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 15 – Life on Land
- Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The next SDG Summit will be convened by the UN General Assembly in September 2027.

Annex I: List of the Members of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism

1. Women's Major Group
2. Indigenous Peoples Major Group
3. Major Group for Children and Youth
4. Workers and Trade Unions Major Group
5. Business and Industry Major Group
6. Non-Governmental Organization Major Group
7. Farmers Major Group
8. Scientific and Technological Community Major Group
9. Local Authorities Major Group
10. Volunteers Stakeholders Group
11. Stakeholder Group on Ageing
12. Education and Academia Stakeholder Group
13. Civil Society Financing for Development Group
14. Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities
15. Stakeholder Group for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent
16. LGBTI Stakeholder Group
17. Together 2030
18. Sendai Group (Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism)
19. Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
20. ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
21. Africa Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
22. People of African Descent Stakeholder Group (PAD SG)

Annex II: Mandates Relevant to MGoS' Participation in the work of ECOSOC and HLPF

A/RES/67/290: Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

- 8. “The General Assembly ... Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews: ... (c) **Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.**”
- 13. “Acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the **United Nations regional commissions** to contribute to the work of the forum, **including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders**, as appropriate.”
- 14. “Stresses the need for the forum to **promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders** at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions, and in this regard decides that the **forum shall be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly**, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, which shall be applicable to the forum.”
- 15. “Decides, in this regard, that, while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, **the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed:**
 - (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
 - (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
 - (c) To intervene in official meetings;
 - (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
 - (e) To make recommendations;
 - (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.”



- 16. **"Encourages the major groups** identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer 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/RES/68/1: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

- Annex. 22. **"The Economic and Social Council** has an important role as a **platform for multi-stakeholder participation** and for engaging all relevant stakeholders in the work of the Council, particularly **with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.**"
- Annex. 23. "While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the **Economic and Social Council shall seek to promote the active participation of major groups, non-governmental organizations, other relevant stakeholders and regional organizations** in the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/290 insofar as it pertains to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council."

A/RES/72/305: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

- Annex. 19. "The **Economic and Social Council** has an important role as a **platform for multi-stakeholder participation** and for engaging all relevant stakeholders in the work of the Council, particularly **with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.**" (note: same wording as A/RES/68/1, annex para 22.)
- Annex. 20. "While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the **Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the active participation of major groups, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, youth and other relevant stakeholders and regional organizations in the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions**, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General

Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 insofar as it pertains to the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council.”

- Annex. 21. “The Economic and Social Council should consider **possible ways of applying to other meetings and segments certain aspects of the modalities of engagement of major groups and other stakeholders in the high-level political forum**, while retaining its intergovernmental nature and allowing sufficient time to Member States.”

A/RES/75/290 A and 290 B:

Review of the implementation of General Assembly **resolution 72/305** on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Review of the implementation of General Assembly **resolutions 67/290** on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and **70/299** on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

75/290 A – Economic and Social Council:

- Annex.15. “The **partnership forum** of the Economic and Social Council will be convened for one day by early February, back-to-back with the coordination segment. The partnership forum will engage countries, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, **non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and other stakeholders**. The partnership forum will be **organized in consultation with stakeholders and allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on the main theme of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development**. The partnership forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Council. The partnership forum will also discuss forward-looking actions by countries and all relevant stakeholders as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda.”
- Annex. 21. “... Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council should – **and the private sector and other stakeholders involved in the policy and normative work of the United Nations system and the subsidiary bodies may – be engaged in the coordination segment, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the Council.**”

- Annex. 25. "... In accordance with the rules of procedure and previous practice of the **special event on the transition from relief to development, participation by all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system, international financial and trade institutions, regional organizations, civil society and private sector representatives in the meeting will be possible.** Full participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chair and countries members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, should be ensured, inter alia, through the **use of videoconferencing.** This meeting will continue to be organized in the context of the humanitarian affairs segment and the operational activities for development segment, without prejudice to the respective mandates of those segments."
- Annex. 34. "The **engagement of civil society and relevant stakeholders in the Economic and Social Council** should continue to be arranged in accordance with paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305."
- Annex. 35. "While retaining its intergovernmental nature, **the Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the active participation of international and regional organizations, members of parliaments, academia, scientists, non-governmental organizations, local governments, the private sector, women, youth and major groups and other stakeholders,** in activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 72/305."

75/290 B – High-level political forum on sustainable development:

- Annex. 8. "... **While respecting its universal intergovernmental character, the high-level political forum will continue to involve Governments, as well as the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, civil society, non-governmental organizations, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community and other major groups and relevant stakeholders.**"
- Annex. 20. "... The **participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the discussion of the voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum** should continue to be ensured as mandated in resolution 67/290 and the 2030 Agenda."

- Annex. 21. “In the 2030 Agenda it was decided that the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall carry out regular reviews, in line with resolution 67/290. **Reviews** will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. They shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They **shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. ...**”
- Annex. 25. “During the **preparation of the voluntary national reviews**, countries, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and **other stakeholders in a position to do so are invited to provide support to countries that request it for the conduct of their review.**”
- Annex. 26. “**To improve the follow-up to the voluntary national reviews**, countries, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and **other stakeholders are invited and encouraged to launch partnerships and provide support, including capacity-building, to voluntary national review programme countries**, at their request and in consultation with them, in order to help them to address the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ...”
- Annex. 28. “The **regional forums on sustainable development** convened by the regional commissions ... should also **provide adequate space for stakeholder participation.**”
- Annex. 32. “**Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals**, including cross-cutting issues, **at the high-level political forum**, shall continue to be supported by inputs from the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. **The thematic reviews shall also continue to engage all relevant stakeholders.**”
- Annex. 35. “Reaffirming the **provisions stipulated in paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of resolution 67/290** on the **participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the high-level political forum**, the forum should ensure broad, effective and balanced participation of a diverse and inclusive range of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in all aspects of its work, including the voluntary national reviews, including through the use of information technology and innovative web-based interface as an additional **means for participation**, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the forum. **Countries could consider including major groups and other relevant**



stakeholders in their delegations at the forum, as done by some countries in the past.”

- Annex. 36. **“Major groups and other relevant stakeholders are called upon to continue to report on their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as provided for in paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda, and the Secretariat shall continue to compile and make available the documents from major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as provided for in paragraph 15 (d) of resolution 67/290, presented by major groups and other stakeholders on the theme of the high-level political forum.”**



Annex III: Acronyms referenced in this Handbook

MGoS	Major Groups and other Stakeholders
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
GA	General Assembly
RIO+20	2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
OISC	Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews
EGMs	Expert Group Meetings
STI Forum	Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLS	High-level Segment
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MGoS-CM	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism
RFSDs	Regional Forums for Sustainable Development
UNRCs	United Nations Regional Commissions
RCEM	Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanisms
IATTs	Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
TFM	Technology Facilitation Mechanism
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
IPMG	Indigenous Peoples Major Group

Acknowledgements

This Handbook was developed through a collaborative effort between UN DESA and the MGoS Coordination Mechanism, with support from the Government of Canada.

Special thanks to all who contributed, notably: Gaia Basinc, Marianne Haslegrave, Oli Henman, Midori Kanda, Rashima Kwatra, Haowen Ma, Jessica Maria Pinguil, Nelya Rakhimova, Jano Mathis Richter, Emily Wilson, Frances Zainoeddin.

Editor: Tonya Vaturi



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HANDBOOK 2025 EDITION