

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Multi-stakeholder engagement in national reviews: a dialogue between VNR Countries and Major Groups and other Stakeholders

12 July 2017, 18:15 – 19:30

Conference Room A, United Nations Headquarters

Background

The 2017 session of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) will feature voluntary national reviews (VNRs) by 44 countries during the 3-day ministerial level meeting of the forum, to be held from 17-19 July 2017. DESA DSD together with the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders HLPF Coordination Mechanism¹ will host a side event during the HLPF to have an exchange between the Member States and Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) on how to ensure the effective participation and contributions of MGoS to the continued implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Objectives

The side event is expected to:

- Provide a space for knowledge sharing between MGoS and VNR countries regarding work being done around the implementation, follow-up, and review at the national level, including best practices;
- Foster a discussion on what are some of the lessons learned from the national level stakeholder engagement during the two first years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Session Format

The side event will be held on Wednesday, 12 July, from 18:15 – 19:30, in Conference Room A. The session will consist of a brief opening panel that will feature introductory statements by three national-level MGoS representatives, followed by reactions from five VNR Member States and a moderated discussion between all participants.

Participants

The event will be open to representatives of Member States, MGoS and the UN system. It will be moderated by Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA.

¹ For more information on the Coordination Mechanism please see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf>

Proposed programme:

18:15 - 18:35: Opening panel
Moderated by **Mr. Thomas Gass**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA.

- **Ms. Alessandra Nilo** (Gestos and the Civil Society Working Group for the 2030 Agenda, Brazil)
- **Ms. Ekaete Judith Umoh** (Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Nigeria)
- **Ms. Christine Mulvad** (The Danish 92 Group, Denmark)

18:35 - 18:55: Reactions by 2017 VNR countries

- **H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae**, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza-García**, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations
- **Mr. Pieter Leenknecht**, UN Coordinator at the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs
- **Mr. Timotej Šooš**, Slovenia Development Strategy Lead, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy

18:55 - 19:20: Moderated dialogue

19:20 - 19:30: Final reactions by panel and closing