

THEME in 2016: ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

Session 1: Where do we stand at year one?

Monday, 11 July 2016, 10:15 to 11:30

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 marked a watershed year for sustainable development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets are expected to stimulate action over the upcoming years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. The new agenda has exhibited unprecedented level of political will to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and to shift the world onto a more sustainable and resilient path, building on the Millennium Development Goals and completing its unfinished business, with the participation of all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnerships. To ensure effective implementation for people, planet, and prosperity, real progress is what really matters.

This session will address the question “where we stand at year one”, guided by evidence and prominent thinkers. It will kick off the 2016 HLPF assessment of progress with a short presentation of the 2016 SDG Progress Report, prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN System based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. Prominent thinkers will then challenge us with inquiries on where we stand, drawing on the SDG Progress Report.

Adopting policies to spur implementation is important, as well as adapting institutions and processes and engaging all stakeholders. However, we need monitoring and review at the national level to see where we are and how to steer our course. We also need follow-up and review at the global level. We only have fifteen years to get it right and we need to start now in year one to ensure that we leave no one behind, as highlighted in the theme of this year’s meeting of HLPF.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. Drawing on the SDG Progress Report of the Secretary-General, what are your thoughts and comments on where we stand? How should we get to our baseline?
2. As countries focus on integrating the SDGs and targets into their national plans, are there any new trends in the economic, social and environmental dimensions that the international community needs to take into consideration at year one? Good news or bad news?
3. What have you witnessed in countries around the world so far as the most effective measures taken to ensure that no one is left behind? What make them effective?

Background document: This session will draw on the 2016 SDG Progress Report.

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Session 2: Ensuring that no one is left behind: Envisioning an inclusive world in 2030

Monday, 11 July 2016, 11:30 to 13:00

Inclusion is at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inclusiveness speaks to the notion of empowerment and the principle of non-discrimination. It is reflected in the pledge to leave no one behind and in the vision of a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met” and “a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all” (paragraphs 8 and 9). It is also reflected both in goals and targets, including Goal 4, which refers to inclusive and equitable quality education; Goal 8, which refers to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; Goal 9, which refers to inclusive and sustainable industrialization; Goal 11, which refers to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements; and Goal 16, which refers to peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and to accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.¹ It refers to the need to include everyone in societal processes, and conveys the notion that people should not only be allowed to thrive, but should have a voice and effective opportunities to shape the course of development. Thus, the Agenda is relevant to all countries and all people, belongs to everyone, and its success will depend on the active implication and engagement of all actors and on reaching the furthest behind first.

Making the inclusive world envisioned in the 2030 Agenda a reality will require innovation in policy-making and implementation. It will require rethinking economic development strategies and the manner in which economic, social and environmental policies are conceived and delivered. Along with policies aimed at aggregate outcomes, inclusion calls for identifying and addressing the barriers faced by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the access to resources, services, and opportunities. This, in turn, will require effectively drawing into decision-making and policy formulation and implementation, at all levels of government, the groups that are typically excluded from these processes and left behind in the outcomes.

This session will discuss solutions to the challenges of inclusion in both outcome and procedures, through innovation in policy formulation and implementation. Perspectives from the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – will be presented.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What does inclusion mean in practice (in relation to policies, institutions, legal instruments and other mechanisms) and how are governments addressing the challenge?
2. What lessons can be learned from concrete experiences at national, regional and global levels aimed at inclusion in outcomes and decision-making processes?
3. How can innovation in policy-making and policy implementation be fostered to face the challenges of inclusion in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

¹ The 2030 Agenda does not define inclusion or inclusive. The Overview of the *Report on the World Social Situation 2016, Leaving No One Behind: Progress Towards Achieving Socially-Inclusive Development* (UNDESA, January 2016) considers social inclusion as the “process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, economic and migrant status”.

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Session 3: Ensuring that no one is left behind – Lifting people out of poverty and addressing basic needs

Monday, 11 July 2016, 15:00 to 16:30

In today's world, billions of people, particularly in developing countries, continue to lack services to meet basic needs such as education, health care, as well as water supply and sanitation. Building capacity to meet these needs will create jobs, economic opportunities and well-being while helping to ensure no one is left behind. The session will identify how meeting the needs for basic social services can enable rapid social, economic and environmental progress while reducing poverty, in order to capitalize on possible synergies while reducing potential trade-offs.

Although there have been significant gains in terms of eradicating poverty and hunger along with access to basic services such as water, sanitation and education under the MDG framework, the rate of improvement for the poorest most often lags behind that of those who are better off². To leave no one behind, it is critical that the 2030 agenda reaches the furthest behind first by targeting the least advantaged. This objective could be advanced by systematically identifying the communities most in need of basic social services such as reporting on targets for the groups that are furthest behind.

Leaving no one behind necessitates universal access to basic services. According to the Human Development Report "Universal provision of basic social services can raise social competences through several channels. It can be a powerful force to equalize opportunities and outcomes. The case for universal provision of basic social services rests, first and foremost, on the premises that all humans should be empowered to live lives they value and that access to certain basic elements of a dignified life ought to be delinked from people's ability to pay."³ Ambitious measures to extend education, healthcare and water access have been adopted by countries under different conditions and at different stages of development.

Meeting basic needs for the poor is an area of immense opportunity. Empowering local communities to benefit from the provision of basic services unlocks real potential for social, economic and environmental progress. Evidence shows that many societies who have made investments in education, health and water see massive benefits outweighing the initial investment.⁴

The 2030 Agenda is built on the belief that collaborative partnerships will help deliver a transformative change. The world committed to freeing the world from the tyranny of poverty. A first step is to ensure that no one is left without the basic needs required to live a safe, healthy and productive life. Empowering communities to benefit from the provision of these services will help meet all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are some of the concrete steps countries can take when extending access to water, education and healthcare to ensure that their interventions are targeted to those in the lowest wealth quintile?
2. Many believe that the state has the primary responsibility to extend basic services to the entire population. Do you agree with this premise? What are the roles of other actors such as the private sector and civil society and how do collaborative partnerships come into play?
3. What kind of policies are needed to ensure long-term access to basic needs, instead of short-term gains based on projects?

² For education see: ODI "Leaving no one behind: how the SDGs can bring real change" Briefing, March 2015; for water and sanitation see: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme "Country Wealth Quintiles" reporting, <http://www.wssinfo.org/>

³ "Human Development Report 2014, Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience" p. 85

⁴ Ibid, p. 86

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**Session 4: Ensuring that no one is left behind –
Fostering economic growth, prosperity and sustainability**

Monday, 11 July 2016, 16:30 to 18:00

Economic growth is a critical element for reducing poverty in all its dimensions and for ensuring that no one is left behind. Sustained growth is required, particularly in the poorest regions, to catch up with decent living standards and to live a life of dignity, opportunity and hope. In developing countries, for example, growth can create the conditions for enhancing people's access to products and services required to meet urgent needs. A critical channel from growth to prosperity relates to the capacity of growth to generate productive employment and decent work. This is critical in order to leave no one behind.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that economic growth is not sufficient to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives. Growth must be approached holistically, with attention to social inclusion and support as well as to the environmental imperative to protect the planet from degradation so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

The hallmark of the 2030 agenda is the integrated nature of all the SDGs, and economic growth is a topic that illustrates very clearly the need for an integrated approach to development. Economic objectives like productivity through diversification, the upgrading of technology and innovation, and expanded employment and entrepreneurship will be achieved only with simultaneous progress in gender equality, education and reduced inequality, for instance. Global resource efficiency in consumption and production is also critical, to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation is a cornerstone element for sustainable development. In that regard, sustainable consumption and production provides a systemic approach to achieving sustainable growth and managing the related trade-offs. The 2030 Agenda highlights the need to ensure sustainable consumption and production, including through the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and encourages all countries to take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. The 2030 Agenda also highlights the key role of private business activity, investment and innovation, and international trade for economic growth.

The session aims to stimulate discussion on ways to foster economic growth, prosperity and sustainability to implement the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one is left behind. It will present different perspectives on the way in which economic growth relates to prosperity and sustainability, including sustainable consumption and production, reflecting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The discussion will cut across different perspectives to provide policy guidance on the implementation of the Agenda.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What factors can influence the transition to a global economy that creates wellbeing, sustainability and reduction of inequality?
2. What types of strategies and policies have proven effective for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth?
3. What mechanisms would ensure a faster transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns?

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Session 5: Ensuring that no one is left behind - Food security and sustainable agriculture, climate action, sustainable oceans and terrestrial ecosystems – adopting a nexus approach

Tuesday, 12 July 2016, 10:00 to 11:30

The interlinked and interconnected nature of sustainable development goals can be seen in the important nexus of sustainable agriculture, the climate, the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems which show how negative trends in these areas can undermine food security and how sustainability in these areas is the only long-term solution for the future.

Food security and nutrition are essential for sustainable development. However, one in every nine people in the world, representing the most vulnerable groups, are currently unable to consume enough food to conduct an active and healthy life.⁵ Accordingly, the 2030 Agenda contains SDG 2 which aims to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. Achieving food security is hereby strongly linked to sustainable agriculture⁶, adequate climate action⁷ and well-functioning oceans⁸ and terrestrial ecosystems⁹.

Agriculture, which generates food and income for many people around the world, is dependent on the global ecosystems. While oceans and terrestrial ecosystems offer crucial ecosystem services and are an important source of food and nutrition, they are increasingly threatened, degraded or destroyed by human activities. Among the main threats is climate change, which impacts the health of the global ecosystems, hinders sustainable agriculture and represents one of the biggest threats to food security in the 21st century. Furthermore, the anticipated growth in the world population to 8.5 billion people by 2030¹⁰ together with its rising food demand will put immense pressure on the agriculture sector.

As hunger remains an everyday challenge for almost 795 million people worldwide, including 780 million in the developing regions¹¹, main challenges must be addressed and sustainable agriculture implemented in order to ensure food security and nutrition for all so that no one is left behind. An integrated approach is hereby crucial.

The session will identify important inter-linkages among the different nexus areas and enumerate possible threats to agriculture, the climate and the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems which are at the same time negatively affecting food security. The session will elaborate on the necessity of using an integrated approach when dealing with this nexus at the sub-national, national, regional and global level.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are the most important inter-linkages among the different nexus areas?
2. What are possible threats affecting agriculture, the climate, the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems and how do they affect food security?
3. How can an integrated approach be used when dealing with this nexus at the sub-national, national, regional and global level to ensure that no one is left behind and what are good examples of such approach?

⁵ [FAO \(2015\): The State of Food Insecurity in the World.](#)

⁶ [TST Issues Brief: Sustainable Agriculture](#)

⁷ [TST Issues Brief: Climate Change and disaster risk reduction](#)

⁸ [TST Issues Brief: Oceans and Seas; Global Sustainable Development Report 2015 Edition Advance Unedited Version, Chapter 3](#)

⁹ [TST Issues Brief: Forests, TST Issues Brief Biodiversity](#)

¹⁰ [UNDESA \(2015\): 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects.](#)

¹¹ [FAO \(2015\): The State of Food Insecurity in the World.](#)

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Session 6: Ensuring that no one is left behind – Creating peaceful and more inclusive societies and empowering women and girls

Tuesday, 12 July 2016, 11:30 to 13:00

Inclusion is a powerful concept, rooted in equality and safeguarded through effective and accountable institutions. In a truly inclusive society, no one is left behind. A dedication to inclusiveness denotes a commitment to addressing the challenges of the most vulnerable and marginalized in society and to pursuing policies that speak to the root causes of poverty.

The 2030 Agenda addresses the issue of inclusion in a number of different contexts. By incorporating the concept of promoting peaceful societies in the SDGs, the international community declared that peace and justice are critical for the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development. Violence and insecurity undermine people's well-being in all nations, not just conflict-affected ones, and progress toward sustainable development can only be made when individuals can access an effective justice system when needed.

In addition, no effort towards inclusiveness will be effective if it does not entail equal opportunities for women and girls and end to all forms of gender discrimination. Participation of women and girls in the economic, social, educational and public dimensions of life in their communities and their countries is vital. The international community clearly recognizes that only by advancing the health, safety, and equality of women, and enhancing their opportunities for leadership and economic empowerment, will the 2030 Agenda be achieved.

This session will address the issue of inclusion and inclusiveness, in the context of peaceful societies and in the context of empowering women and girls. Practical experiences will be shared and discussed with the aim to replicate and/or scale up impactful efforts, and ultimately, to begin to identify lasting solutions.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. How do we ensure that indeed no one is left behind when creating peaceful societies with effective and accountable institutions?
2. How can we achieve empowerment of women and girls in all aspects of life?
3. How can data help to assess impact in both of these areas? Is there need to advance more disaggregated gender data to address the challenges of vulnerable populations, in particular women and girls?

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Session 7: Science-policy interface: new ideas, insights, and solutions

Tuesday, 12 July 2016, 15:00 to 18:00

The session is organised in support of the function of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to strengthen the science-policy interface.

The accelerating accumulation, use and diffusion of scientific knowledge and its application in technological innovations is reshaping our world. It has solved many of humanity's problems and led to unprecedented levels of prosperity. Yet, our current model of science, technology and innovation engagement has also created many challenges and has left many behind. The roundtable aims to take stock and to facilitate the ongoing conversation on these issues.

To this end, the session will bring together eminent natural and social scientists, government officials, and civil society representatives. It will identify and take stock of new ideas, scientific insights and technological solutions, including those contained in recent UN scientific assessments and studies by expert groups, for consideration by the forum. It will identify key research gaps in sustainability science that policy makers would like to see filled, in view of the challenges faced by developing and developed countries. The roundtable will discuss ideas and specific actions on how scientific and technological communities could be more effectively mobilised by the high-level political forum in support of achievement of the SDGs.

The session will explore future opportunities for strengthening the science-policy interface in a variety of contexts, including through the future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). As background, the 2016 pilot GSDR will be presented together with an overview of lessons learned from the GSDR process that can be instructive moving forward.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are important new ideas, scientific insights and technological solutions that have been proposed by scientists for policy consideration, including those contained in UN scientific assessments and suggested by expert groups? What are key research gaps in sustainability science that need to be filled?
2. How could the high-level political forum more effectively mobilise scientific and technological communities in support of the achievement of the SDGs? What specific actions should be taken, for example, for developing societal STI action plans and roadmaps, science advisory ecosystems at various levels?
3. What role will the Global Sustainable Development Report process play in further strengthening the science-policy interface on the global policy stage?

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Session 8: Creating ownership at the national level

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 10:00 to 11:30

In September 2015, the Member States of the United Nations adopted the historic 2030 Agenda, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. The Agenda and the SDGs were only aspirations, however, until they were brought back to Capitals around the world—and to cities, states, regions and provinces—and absorbed into the national context. This session will address the process of nationalizing and localizing the SDGs, including the institutional and policy challenges and opportunities, progress to date, and prognosis for the future.

The 2030 Agenda is defined by its universal nature, serving developing and developed countries alike. But this universality is meaningful only with the understanding that one size does not fit all circumstances. As Member States embark on the process of bringing the SDGs to the national level, they are adapting the 2030 Agenda to pre-existing national sustainable development strategies and plans and also, concurrently, adapting national strategies and plans to the Agenda. This two-way process takes a variety of shapes. Based on the experiences and institutional arrangements from the Millennium Development Goals, countries will be focusing on a broader range of goals and targets under a universal agenda. Thus domestic implementation means breaking new ground and adopting a new mind set.

In both developing and developed countries, governments will succeed in implementing the 2030 Agenda only if they engage a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Civil society, academia, parliamentarians, local authorities, and business people together constitute the national landscape, and they together will create national ownership of the SDGs. By working with diverse stakeholders, Member States can help ensure that all voices are heard and that no one is left behind.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. How can Member States strike the balance between respecting the universal nature and transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda and tailoring it to their national contexts? What are the challenges and opportunities in this regard?
2. How will countries adapt the global SDG indicators framework in light of its national circumstances?
3. How will the process of localizing the SDGs and creating national ownership contribute to the scope and effectiveness of global follow up and review?

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Session 9: Mainstreaming SDGs into national policies, plans and strategies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 11:30 to 13:00

For the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, their inclusion and mainstreaming into national policies, plans and strategies will be crucial. Without a doubt, the fulfilment of the pledge to “leave no one behind” will also depend on how well the ones furthest behind will be taken into account when drafting the required policies and plans. The concepts of mainstreaming sustainable development into national plans and mainstreaming global policy frameworks into national strategies are not novel notions, as has been demonstrated by the experiences of national sustainable development plans and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and many lessons can be learnt from these.

As noted in the 2030 Agenda, each country needs to take into account their national realities and circumstances, and hence no one size fits all countries in regard to the mainstreaming process. It is important to remember that prior to the adoption of the SDGs governments have had existing policy objectives and commitments that are articulated in a variety of national and sectoral strategies and plans, as well as in commitments to international agreements. However, three typical steps that can apply for many types of countries in initial SDG mainstreaming include¹²:

1. Review of existing strategies and plans and identification of areas for change: to scan and detail the landscape of existing strategies and plans at the national, sub-national and local levels and then compare against the global SDGs and targets to identify gaps and provide the basis for areas for change; 2. Setting of nationally-relevant targets: for nationally-adapted and inclusive SDGs that are achievable, yet ambitious; and 3. Formulation of strategy and plans using integrated systems thinking: to incorporate the recommendations and the insights from the above steps into strategies and plans and matching ambition and commitments with resources and capacities.

The theme of the HLPF this year is “Ensuring that no one is left behind” and the 2030 Agenda states that all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. In this spirit, some Member States have decided to include stakeholders as part of their national SDG mainstreaming process, including hearings and participation in tailoring of national targets, plans and policies.

The mainstreaming of the SDGs is a complex endeavour. This session aims to provide a space for the Member States and other stakeholders to exchange their views on the success stories and challenges faced in the early implementation of the SDGs at the national level and their integration into policies, plans and strategies. It aims to draw upon the lessons learnt from both the previous gains made in integrated policy-making nationally and from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What policies, coordination mechanisms and plans have countries put into place in order to integrate the SDGs into their national plans?
2. What are the main challenges for integrated policy-making, and what institutional structures at national level work well to foster policy coherence?
3. How can the global community support the national mainstreaming of the SDGs?

¹² For example Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Reference Guide, United Nation Development Group, Available at: https://undg.org/main/undg_document/mainstreaming-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-interim-reference-guide-to-uncts/

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Session 10: Vertical cooperation –local authorities and national governments working together for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 15:00 to 16:30

In order to reach the further behind first, national governments and local authorities must work together, in close partnership, reflecting vertical synergies and achieving development results at the local level, close to the vulnerable groups. This collaboration is vital for the 2030 Agenda to become a reality. Experience with MDGs suggests that success in implementation will depend on effective local action. This will require the active role of local governments/authorities and communities at the grassroots level.

Local authorities have a unique role to play in political inclusion at the grassroots level. Community-based participation facilitated by local governments is a powerful tool for the achievement of sustainable development. They are best placed to link the global goals with local communities as stakeholders engagement is at the heart of an inclusive 2030 Agenda.

All SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local governments, authorities, and other actors. It is, therefore, essential to include local authorities in policy-making processes and ensure that they have the needed capacity to meaningfully participate in the policy-making for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Additionally, reliable local data will be an essential tool to monitor progress and to target resources to those most in need.

In this context, local authorities are central in ensuring the link between the global vision and local policies and actions of citizens, as well as in bringing local relevant initiatives into global policy debates, offering lessons learned and best practices. The challenge will be how to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, how to enhance vertical cooperation mechanisms, and how to ensure that local authorities are strengthened to deliver on the SDGs.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What is the level of engagement of local authorities in your national sustainable development strategy?
2. What are the challenges local governments are facing and what immediate remedies are needed to ensure effective participation? How does the national government help local governments to meet these challenges?
3. What is your experience in stakeholder engagement at both national and locals to help foster vertical cooperation and to ensure that the implementation is inclusive?

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Session 11: Challenges in mobilizing means of implementation at the national level: Financing, Technology, and Capacity Building

Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 16:30 to 18:00

The session will discuss main challenges in mobilizing means of implementation at the national level for sustainable development. It will focus on the areas highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, related to financing for development, science, technology and innovation (STI) and capacity building.

The role of finance is crucial to support the achievement of the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda reiterates the primary responsibility of each country for its own economic and social development, and emphasizes that cohesive national strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be essential for implementing the 2030 Agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Agenda also emphasizes that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment that harness international private business and finance, development cooperation, and trade as engines for development. The session will discuss key challenges for domestic resource mobilization and how these can be addressed within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Technology facilitation, science and capacity-building are also critical means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, the Agenda launched the Technology Facilitation Mechanisms to support the achievement of the SDGs. The Mechanism includes a collaborative Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs. During the session, a co-chair of the 2016 STI Forum and a representative of the 10 Member Group in support of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism will report on the outcomes of Forum, which was held in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016 and addressed the topic "Realizing the potential of science, technology and innovation for all to achieve the sustainable development goals."

Through sharing of experiences and lessons learned, the session will try to identify key strategies to overcome the perceived challenges. This topic will be presented through a panel discussion. The session will also highlight main capacity building interventions in STI for sustainable development that can be applied at national level.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are the main challenges for domestic resource mobilization for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How these challenges can be addressed within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development?
2. How can the main outcomes of the multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs meeting advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? What are the implications that can be applied for actions taken in the field?
3. How can the capacity building interventions in technology for development be applied at national level to ensure no one left behind?

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**Session 12: National mechanisms for monitoring progress
and reporting on implementation for the achievement of SDGs**

Thursday, 14 July 2016, 10:00 to 11:30

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stressed that Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States committed to fully engage in conducting regular and inclusive reviews of progress at that national level. National reports will allow assessments of progress and identify challenges and will inform recommendations for follow up at the national, regional and global levels.

The 2030 Agenda also underscored that quality and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data are key to decision making, as well as to monitoring and reporting on implementation for the achievement of SDGs.

The session will focus on reviewing ways and approaches to systematic and effective follow-up, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, including the development and utilization of statistics and indicators for sustainable development.

It will aim to evaluate the existing work on monitoring and reporting at the national level, share experiences and lessons learned, identify gaps and challenges, and recommend ways and future actions in strengthening national institutions, mechanisms, and statistical capacities for effective monitoring, data collection and reporting on the implementation for the achievement of SDGs, and foster cooperation and partnerships to support capacity building in developing countries.

In this context, Member States agreed to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries. Such an agreement is also reflected clearly in target 17.18 which says “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What successful experience and best practices in your country could be shared in terms of effective monitoring of progress and reporting on implementation for the achievement of SDGs?
2. What are the difficulties, challenges and gaps that might prevent effective monitoring and reporting on progress of SDGs at the national level?
3. What concrete actions should be taken with regards to strengthening institutions and capacities of countries, in particular developing countries, for data collection, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of SDGs?

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Session 13: Making the 2030 Agenda deliver for SIDS, building on the SAMOA Pathway

Thursday, 14 July 2016, 11:30 to 13:00

Building on the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development called for special attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as they face unique vulnerabilities in their sustainable development. They are faced with various challenges due to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks. SIDS are on the frontline experiencing the effects of climate change and they have limited financial resources and capacity to cope with these physical, social and economic impacts.

In the SAMOA Pathway, Member States recognized that “the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals”¹³. This was reaffirmed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Oceans play a central role in the culture of SIDS, and at the same time is tightly linked to their economies. The devastating climate change impacts on oceans, such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification and the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, make SIDS more vulnerable, as most island lives and livelihoods are built on oceans.

It is important to ensure the synergies between the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, focusing on strengthening the resilience of SIDS, in order to achieve their sustainable development and to eradicate poverty. Many SIDS are archipelagos with islands scattered within a country. It is therefore crucial to have a robust mechanism for coordination and strengthened means of implementation to ensure that no one is left behind. This session will identify synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway and the best possible ways to overcome special challenges of SIDS in achieving their sustainable development.

Possible questions for discussion:

- 1) What are the most important inter-linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway?
- 2) What are the major challenges and needs for SIDS in the implementation of both of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway?
- 3) How can national institutions and means of implementation be strengthened in SIDS to deliver the 2030 Agenda while ensuring that no one is left behind?

¹³ Paragraph 15

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Session 14: Countries in Special Situations

Thursday, 14 July 2016, 15:00 to 18:00

This session will address the challenges and opportunities faced by least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), middle-income countries (MICs), African countries, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in aligning their existing national priorities and plans to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As stated in the 2030 Agenda, “Each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.”¹⁴

The success of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda will be measured against the progress of countries in special situations. The theme of leaving no one behind effectively focuses the initial strategies and efforts of the international community to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations within these countries.

The discussion will examine how LDCs and LLDCs are working to build synergy and coherence between the 2030 Agenda and existing agreements, including the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (IPoA) and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs (VPoA).

The outcome of the recent Mid-term Review of the IPoA reported that “progress towards the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals was slowest in the least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; those countries require context-specific approaches, including targeted national policies and international support.”¹⁵

The unfinished business of reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will also be addressed. In the 2030 Agenda, as Member States recommitted to “the full realization of all the MDGs, including the off-track MDGs, in particular by providing focussed and scaled-up assistance to least developed countries and other countries in special situations, in line with relevant support programmes.”¹⁶

Possible questions for discussion:

1. How can context-specific approaches, targeted national policies and international support be pursued to ensure that countries in special situations are not left behind? What efforts are needed to build national capacities and foster domestic resource mobilization?
2. What are the key challenges to building capacity for effective data collection and analysis for monitoring and follow-up of the SDGs, which is a critical need for countries in special situations? How can these challenges be overcome?
3. Countries in special situations are highly vulnerable to both internal and external shocks; how can we ensure resilience against various kinds of shocks and crises?

¹⁴ A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 22.

¹⁵ IPOA Mid-term Review outcome document (A/CONF.228/L.1), May 2016.

¹⁶ A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 16.

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Session 15: From inspiration to action: Multi-stakeholder engagement for implementation

15 July 2016, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

In line with paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1) and paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly Resolution 67/290 (A/RES/67/290), this session offers major groups and other stakeholders an opportunity to “report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda” and speak to the topics of the HLPF. It is organised in collaboration with the HLPF Coordination Mechanism¹⁷ of the major groups and other Stakeholders pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly Resolution 67/290.

The programme will be structured around two focused sessions that will each feature interventions by representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders as lead discussants and responses from Member States and other interventions from the floor covering a) experiences of Major Groups and other Stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the first year, and b) collaborative approaches that they have adopted at the national level, including the national review processes.

Proposed programme

10-10:05 am	Opening remarks by the Chair
10:05-10:10 am	Welcoming remarks by moderator
10:10-11:40am	“Ensuring that no one is left behind – the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by major groups and other stakeholders”:

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What activities have been implemented by your organisation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
2. What would be one ‘best practice’ approach that you found useful in your setting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
3. How has your collaborative relationship with the government improved the planning and implementation of the SDGs at the national or local level?

11:40am-12:25pm	“Multi-stakeholder approaches at the National level – the opportunity to enhance follow up and review by engaging major groups and other stakeholders”:
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Possible questions for discussion:

1. How can major groups and other stakeholders successfully and meaningfully contribute to the global and national level reviews of SDGs?
2. What are the added value of major groups and other stakeholders in the national implementation, follow up and review of the SDGs?
3. How can we ensure that Major Groups and other Stakeholders have the resources and capacity to participate effectively at the national level?

12:25pm– 12:55 pm	General Exchange of Views
12:55pm-1pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

¹⁷ Their terms of reference can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hlpfcm>.

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Session 16: Regional experiences

Friday, 15 July 2016, 15:00 to 17:30

Regions provide a vital bridge between global frameworks and national development agendas, and regional implementation informs global and national policymaking and normative agenda-setting through the exchange of experiences and perspectives and the fostering of peer learning. Regions also serve as an important nexus where feedback loops from bottom to top, and vice versa.

Regional level cooperation further provides a space for deepening regional integration efforts and for elaborating effective public policies among countries of similar circumstances and beyond.

In accordance with paragraph 90 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States have been called to identify the most suitable regional entity in which to engage for following up and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on existing mechanisms and successful experiences. Important progress has been achieved in various regions in recognizing the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (RFSDs) as platforms for regional follow-up and review¹⁸. The RFSDs organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions in collaboration with various partners in the lead up to the 2016 HLPF, played an important role in identifying regional challenges, lessons learned and action specific to regional settings, in relation to the HLPF theme of “Ensuring that no one is left behind” and the overall 2030 Agenda follow-up and review.

Specifically, they looked how to support countries in their region, in particular countries in special situations, to enhance their capacity for implementation of the 2030 Agenda; how to identify regional trends, share best practices and lessons learned at the regional level; how to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals at the regional level; and how to tailor their support to the needs and specificities of each country in their respective regions.

In addition to the UN Regional Commissions, other regional and sub-regional implementing actors play an important role as partners in the attainment of sustainable development. Several have already made significant progress in mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda in their work and policy support. This session will hear from presentations of these stakeholders in an interactive roundtable.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are the best practices and lessons learned we can draw from regional experience in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and specifically in relation to the HLPF theme of “Ensuring that no one is left behind?”
2. What has been identified so far as the biggest challenges in different regions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals?
3. How can regional platforms help ensure that no one is left behind in achieving the sustainable development goals?

¹⁸ These exist in ECA, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP

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Session 17: Ensuring that no one is left behind – Reaching the most vulnerable

Monday, 18 July, 10:00 to 11:30

A distinctive feature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is its emphasis on reaching the poorest and most vulnerable, as expressed in the Preamble and Declaration. A range of Goals and Targets, including those on poverty; on food security, nutrition and agriculture; on education and learning opportunities; on water and sanitation; and on cities make specific reference to the poor and vulnerable or those in vulnerable situations. Paragraph 23 of the Agenda refers to the empowerment of the most vulnerable and includes, among the groups “whose needs are reflected in the agenda”, “all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants” as well as “people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism”.

Because of disabilities, lack of resources, language and literacy barriers, distance, formal and legal impediments, cultural practices, social norms and others, these groups are often excluded from the channels through which the benefits of policy, government action, and economic development are conveyed. Access to education, adequate housing, basic services, social protection, jobs, financing, legal protection, protection from environmental hazards and natural disasters, and opportunities to participate in decision-making are often out of reach or prohibitively costly for precisely those groups that need them the most. These are issues that have also been addressed from the perspective of human rights. Failure to acknowledge and address factors of vulnerability and the barriers to access services, resources and opportunities means that advances in development will not benefit the poorest and most vulnerable and that inequalities will be aggravated rather than attenuated.

In addition to the 2030 Agenda, the need to reach the most vulnerable is recognized in numerous international agreements, including, among the most recent, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is the object of numerous human rights instruments and has been the focus of the work of the Commission for Social Development. Intergovernmental and other forums have addressed the specific needs of particular groups.

Taking into account national and international commitments and practice, this session will bring together perspectives on how to address these challenges, with particular reference to the groups identified in the 2030 Agenda. It will address lessons from past and ongoing experiences, and how to best assess progress in this regard.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What are the concrete barriers faced by the poorest and most vulnerable, and by particular groups among the most vulnerable, in accessing services, resources and opportunities and in benefitting from policy measures?
2. What concrete measures have been taken to address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and what lessons can be learned from these experiences?
3. How can advances in reaching the most vulnerable in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda best be assessed, nationally and internationally?

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Session 18: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind: Challenges of countries in special situations

Monday, 18 July 2016, 11:30 to 13:00

In 2011, Member States adopted the Istanbul Program of Action on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). 2014 saw the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing States (LLDCs). In many ways these three outcome documents anticipated the vision and priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both in terms of the policy areas addressed and the underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda: leave no one behind.

Building on the two expert level sessions from week one, this Ministerial level session will offer perspectives on the challenges facing countries in special situations and will focus on concrete solutions and the means of implementing them.

This session will explore the synergies among these outcome documents and the 2030 Agenda, and will focus on the means of implementation. It will shine a spotlight on the concerns and challenges of these three categories of countries in special situations, as well as those middle income countries (MICs) and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Climate change, debt sustainability, economic growth and sustainable livelihoods, access to markets, and sustainable transport—these issues and others are all challenges for the world at large, but LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICs, and conflict and post-conflict countries, with their structural vulnerabilities, feel these challenges especially acutely.

The progress of all these countries is crucial in its own right and also because it can serve as a bellwether for the overall success of the SDGs. Because of this, though, they can also be drivers and incubators for innovative solutions to development problems, and they have much to teach the rest of the world.

Possible questions for discussion:

- 1) What actions are countries in special situations taking to address their vulnerabilities and advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda in concert with the programs of action specific to their country groups?
- 2) How can the international community complement these actions with meaningful support and partnership? What are the gaps and challenges in this regard? Are there any new entry points for partnership and support created in the 2030 Agenda?
- 3) What are some “quick win” or “early harvest” areas for countries in special situations, areas where these countries themselves and their development partners can focus attention and resources in the next three to five years?

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**Session 19: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind –
Unlocking MOI for SDGs and creating an enabling environment**

Monday, 18 July 2016, 15:00 to 17:00

The 2030 Agenda highlights that a critical element for the achievement of its Goals and targets and for ensuring that no one is left behind is the successful mobilization of both existing and additional resources, including financial resources, technology development, and capacity building. To meet the ambition of the SDGs, the Agenda set forth means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each of the other sixteen Goals. It also has the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as its integral part, which supports and complements to contextualize the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation targets and outlines policies and actions that are critical for the realization of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes that the SDGs can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. It reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and emphasizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. At the same time, the Agenda emphasizes that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance. The Agenda also highlights the key role of private business activity, investment and innovation as major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation.

A dedicated follow-up and review for the financing for development outcomes as well as all the means of implementation of the SDGs is carried out by the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, whose inaugural session was held in New York from 18 to 20 April 2016. The forum affirmed a strong commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Also in the context of the follow-up and review of the implementation of 2030 Agenda, the first annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs was held in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016. The Forum highlighted that it is critical to assess how sciences and technology can be mobilized to provide solutions to our biggest challenges and repurposed to achieve the SDGs.

The session will highlight the efforts made since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda to mobilize the means for its implementation, particularly in the areas of finance, private business engagement, science, technology and innovation, and capacity building. The session will also discuss lessons learned, prospects and challenges in these areas, with an emphasis on how means of implementation can contribute to the objective of leaving no one behind. The session will be informed by the agreed conclusions from the ECOSOC forum on financing for development and by the Co-chairs' summary of the first multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What has been the progress made since the adoption of the Agenda to mobilize means of implementation for all the SDGs?
2. How can financing, science, technology and innovation, and capacity building be best mobilized to ensure that no one is left behind?
3. Moving ahead, what are the main prospects and challenges with respect to the means of implementation in relation to the 2030 Agenda



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Session 20: Prospects for the future – projections, scenarios and new and emerging issues

Panel discussion

20 July 2016, 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

This session in the high-level segment is organised in support of the high-level political forum's function to strengthen the science-policy interface. It will discuss prospects for the years until 2030. It will be based on scientific evidence and feature perspectives of scientists and analysts.

The panel will bring together eminent policy makers, scientists, futurists, and civil society representatives. It will discuss lessons learnt from prospective studies on how the world in 2030 will differ from today, and thus what it will take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensuring that no one is left behind. Sustainable development scenarios illustrate what would be needed to achieve a better future for everyone. They can provide a reality check and inspire decision-making for the SDGs. Panellists will also be encouraged to point out crucial emerging technologies for the SDGs until 2030 and debate their potential opportunities and threats.

A key element of the science-policy function of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the identification of new and emerging issues based on a forward-looking perspective. The session will thus identify new and emerging issues that require policy action at national and global levels, including those that should be on the agenda of future meetings of the high-level political forum. It is important to provide a systematic and trusted entry point for decision-makers to a plethora of analyses, rankings, and advice from many perspectives on what are or should be considered emerging issues.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What do future scenarios and projections tell us about the world in 2030? What will it take to achieve the SDGs?
2. What new and emerging issues require policy action at the national and global levels? In particular, what emerging issues should be on the agenda of the high-level political forum?
3. What are the most crucial emerging technologies for the SDGs until 2030? What are the opportunities and potential threats?