

Major groups and other stakeholders Questions for the voluntary national reviews of Germany, Finland, Samoa and Uganda

My name is Jasmin Burgermeister and I am a German Youth Delegate to the HLPF 2016. But today, I have the privilege of delivering a collective statement on behalf of all the Major Groups and other Stakeholders, who have participated in the process of drafting this statement.

At this point, we would like to express our deep concern on allotting only 3 minutes for the MGoS statement. This will never be enough time for ensuring a critical analysis of the member states reports and thus a well-functioning HLPF.

Also, we regret the impossibility of asking spontaneous question as response to the member states' speeches.

Nevertheless, first of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity some countries have given to civil society to let them share their views within the countries' presentations. Unfortunately, you are an exception: there has been significant discontent among MGoS about how rare civil society participation has been in the setting-up and commenting of review reports at the national level. Civil Society Organisations should not only play a role at the UN level but also back home from the very beginning of the consultation processes and the drafting of the report.

Integrating sustainable development throughout policies and mainstreaming the goals into all decision-making are the top priorities in achieving the goals.

However, above all, we perceive still a lack of political commitment for the SDGs to succeed.

Finland and Germany are in many ways leading countries of sustainable development. However, it is worrisome, how for example Finland is going down in many global indexes when it comes to PISA -records and inequality. So, first question kindly addressed to Finland: What kind of procedures is the government of Finland going to take in order to get the country back to the top positions in these statistics?

Secondly, what are concrete measures Finland is planning to take to reduce its ecological footprint?

Addressing Germany:

Following OECD data, Germany is one of the countries with the highest level of inequality. How is Germany going to address this emerging issue?

Secondly, could the representatives of Germany share the most pressing conflicts that occur between their strong will to implement the 2030 agenda on the one hand and their current policies on the other? Can you name an example or two, where you would have to admit that there is, at the moment, so far no coherence between political will and implemented policy?

In the review of Uganda, the CSO representatives from your country are concerned about that the Ugandan government does not include and does not address the rights of person with disabilities in areas such as education, health, employment, accessibility, social protection, and means of implementation when implementing the SDGs.

CSO representatives contributing to this statement from Samoa have identified two issues in the reporting of Samoa: First, there is the impression of an imbalance in the 3 pillars of the SDGs, the report emphasizes a lot on the economic pillar and only very little on the social. Secondly, despite CS consultations there is a often poor flow of information and a lack of information facilitation

which often leads to uninformed CSO and therefore not to a genuine partnership.

Following questions are for both Uganda and Samoa: First: How are the countries going to ensure that civil society's involvement includes organisations from all stakeholder groups? Second: Is there a meaningful youth participation in your national bodies and strategies for sustainable development and how are the countries aiming to reach out to young people?