

Time: 7 mins max: 1000 Words

HLPF Official Session: Multi-stakeholder perspectives on the Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

**1- What are the cross-cutting challenges, including structural issues that MGoS and governments face in the implementation of the SDGs, with a focus on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17?**

The terms “transformative” and “paradigm shift” have been thrown about quite often in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Still, the primary cross-cutting challenge so far has been acting on these terms and actualizing this transformation. How do we do this? The UN Major Group for Children and Youth would like to provide a concrete plan for moving forward:

1. Reorient the current “growth for the sake of growth” economic paradigm to one that internalizes social and environmental externalities. It is simple. The economy is dependent on and exists within the environment and society. NOT the other way around. This includes, inter alia, cap share and trade of natural resources and planned degrowth. Additionally, measures like ratios of maximum to minimum income, scaling of UNEP’s Ecological Risk Integration into Sovereign Credit or E-RISC, and Ecological Tax Reform that discourage sectors, especially those that contribute most to resource extraction and pollution, should be seriously considered.
2. Make progress towards innovative and cross-cutting accountability frameworks for the SDGs that emphasize transparency. Poor and siloed accountability mechanisms - the voluntary nature of implementation which allows contextualization and localization of the 2030 Agenda, should not be an excuse for slow progress.

Fix the systematic development finance problem. The much talked about concept of partnerships is unsubstantiated hype in the current context of no agreed definition and governance framework for public-private-partnerships or PPP. These should not be the default option for partnerships. They are inadequate and unsuccessful for essential and critical services. They privatise profits and socialise risks. Moving forward, we should have a clear guideline and accountability mechanism. For example, in the context of water, any contributions of the private sectors should be expressly defined in legally binding agreements with explicit reference to the human right to water and sanitation for all as the primary goal for any such agreement. We suggest convening a process at the global level, through ECOSOC, to ponder, evaluate, and define common standards on PPPs, as opposed to the a non universal membership process led by the ECE.

Second challenge is to overcome existing notions to view things differently. The **lack of new institutional frameworks to facilitate partnerships across territorial jurisdictions (e.g. urban, peri-urban, rural)**, taking into account, representatives of national and local governments, as well as different segments of society. The successful implementation of Agenda 2030, especially SDG 11, is contingent on expanding the notions of territories and settlements beyond “cities” to include all forms of human communities. This will require viewing both the formal and informal parts of territories within the same framework and implementing just and inclusive spatial planning strategies that consider the needs, as

outlined by internationally agreed human rights, of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups, as well as respecting planetary boundaries and biologic carrying capacities.

Way-forward:

1. The many authoritative reports suggested that more wealth has been transferred from the poorer countries to richer countries. Global Financial Integrity (GFI), the Centre for Applied Research at the Norwegian School of Economics and a team of global experts have released a study showing that since 1980 developing countries lost US\$16.3 trillion dollars through broad leakages in the balance of payments, trade misinvoicing, and recorded financial transfers. In 2011 tax haven holdings of total developing country wealth were valued at US\$4.4 trillion. While developed countries effectively objected the creation of intergovernmental tax body at FfD and continued to so, developing countries face this mission impossible with destroyed administrative infrastructure through aid conditions. In order to tackle the financial resource gap, we have to seek mobilizing **financial resources**, by creating **new innovative and sustainable investments mechanisms**, while combating systemic issues such as tax havens, illicit financial flows, financial speculation, and more. Recent development has been promising to move towards this direction. At the G20 foreign ministers ' meeting, Japan has suggested to use International Solidarity tax, such as Financial Transaction Tax. In EU context, The commission and parliaments have been releasing reports with explicit references to Financial Transaction Tax as the future resources. Those resources should be used to advance the achievement of Agenda 2030 and for the global financial justice.
2. **Create incentives for green economy and circular economy** : this implies a transformation of the global and many national financial systems, to meet the needs of sustainable development in which official development assistance can only be a small part.
3. Future of Work and Sustainable Livelihoods- The future of work is strongly linked to sustainable development and will impact many dimensions of life in and beyond employment. Moreover it will affect all members of society including those who work, those who cannot work, and those who are unable to find work.
4. In the global south for instance, the institutional capacity of local government is very weak. The question is how to **make local government the first career choice of the next generation of young professionals?** Because everyone need to own this agenda in some way or another.