

VOLUNTEERS SG INTERVENTION

Thank you, moderator. The Volunteers Stakeholder Group commends Member States for committing to promote public engagement and innovative partnerships to achieve the SDGs through meaningful participation and involvement of communities, people, civil society, volunteers, academia, and the private sector.

COVID-19 has particularly highlighted how the one-billion volunteers globally are helping communities respond to the pandemic and build back better.

But there is still so much more work that all of us need to do, and we offer the following five recommendations. We urge Member States to continue:

1. Formally recognising the contribution of volunteers, civil society, and the private sector toward the implementation of the SDGs in VNRs,
2. Ensuring that volunteer groups, civil society, and the private sector are fully recognised and supported in national plans and strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda,
3. Supporting the participation of non-governmental actors as contributors to and beneficiaries of policies that will allow us all to work towards the 2030 Agenda together,
4. Ensure that the accountability, transparency, and review framework for the SDGs involves community consultation at all levels, including representation of the most marginalised voices, as well as the volunteers who work most closely with them,
5. And particularly after this past year, formally recognizing the role of volunteering in crisis prevention, management, and resolution, as we know volunteers and groups organising volunteers are working daily to meet the SDGs in local communities and are at the front lines of COVID-19 relief, climate change action, and other extraordinary situations.

We can only begin to meet the ambition of the 2030 agenda if we listen to the voices of those who are left behind and we involve people in solutions to their own development. Thank you.