2018 HLPF Background Note - Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other stakeholders

Introduction

Major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) are key for the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although national governments have the primary responsibility of implementing the 2030 Agenda, collaboration with all stakeholders is fundamental. Thosehave also played an important role in the processes that have helped formulate this Agenda and the SDGs. In preparation for the 2018 HLPF, MGoS contributed to review processes at all levels, including at the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (RFSDs) and through national review mechanisms.

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 MGoS an opportunity to "report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda" and speak to their priorities around the topics of the 2018 HLPF.

Key Messages and Common Themes from Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Inputs

As per the official HLPF Document E/HLPF/2018/3, available at
http://undocs.org/E/HLPF/2018/3

Though progress towards the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development frameworks has been made, there remains much to be done to achieve the vision of an inclusive, just, and sustainable future as outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Inclusive and participatory approaches across all levels of implementation remain a challenge, especially for many of the most marginalized and poorest peoples, including women, girls,

children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants, and indigenous peoples, as well as human rights and environment defenders. Meaningful inclusion and engagement of marginalized groups and civil society should be formalized through solid institutional arrangements, as inclusion and participation by themselves do not guarantee long-term progress.

As implementation will only be truly effective if it includes the diverse voices and perspectives across societies, so too will achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals only occur when they are addressed as an interconnected and interdependent whole. Holistic, rights-based approaches to achieving the 2030 Agenda are paramount and will be dependent on the ability of stakeholders across territories, industries, borders, governments, and societies to effectively communicate, coordinate, and cooperate. Each of these actors, both state and non-state, must uphold and respect the human rights of each person.

Coordination and collaboration will likewise be necessary for localizing the SDGs and preparing for future challenges. Collaboration across stakeholders at all levels is important for reducing risk, especially among already marginalized populations. Further, data disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability status, migratory status, human settlements, and other indicators are imperative for ensuring that no one and no place is left behind and for use at all levels and stages of planning and decision-making.

Holding the primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, governments should setup and operationalize adequate regulatory frameworks and accountability mechanisms to ensure fairness, equity, and transparency in achieving the SDGs. With unequal power structures and growing inequality across the globe, governments should strive to tackle the root causes of inequality and ensure that human rights are upheld and that no one is exploited, especially already vulnerable populations. The lack of access to services remains a distinct challenge for many and there remains the risk of the privatization of common goods. Thus, governments must meet these challenges with the financing and political will necessary to combat them, as well as by ensuring effective dialogues across all segments of society.

Above all, the principle of *Leave No One Behind* must be upheld. Only concrete initiatives that are inclusive and holistic, coordinated at all levels and with the collaboration of all peoples, will allow for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15,

17, and all others. Tangible action will require tangible financing and adequate political will.

Expected Outcomes of this session

1. Identification of barriers and good practices related to concrete experiences of MGoS contributions to the implementation of Agenda 2030.
2. Identification of tools and mechanisms that incorporate or are led by MGoS to foster greater accountability.
3. Addressing the global dimension of shared challenges to meeting Agenda 2030, such as climate change, macro-economic challenges and systemic issues such as migration.
4. Recommendations for consideration by the HLPF and governments on how to ensure an enabling environment for MGoS to effectively contribute to the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 at all levels, including but not limited to the VNR process.
5. Identification of key factors for effective collaboration and opportunities to improve collaboration among governments and stakeholders in implementing Agenda 2030 at all levels.

Theme I: Challenges and pathways to promoting transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies through implementation of the SDGs: the role of major groups and other stakeholders at all levels

Discussion Questions:

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?
2. What are some examples and suggestions for addressing these challenges, including by incorporating a nexus approach among the different SDGs? Identify best practices or tools that support success.
3. How are MGoS contributing to the 2030 Agenda through their own actions (as per paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – A/RES/70/1)?

4. How are the major groups and other stakeholders helping to reach the furthest behind and build resilience of the most vulnerable people and what support and enabling environment do they need?
5. What are next steps to promote awareness and facilitate effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Theme II: Successful mechanisms for monitoring and review of progress on implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

Discussion Questions:

1. Transformation requires coherence: What are some experiences or lessons learned in building coherence across sectors, policy processes, and among MGoS themselves?
2. How can MGoS help to ensure that equity and inclusion, especially of marginalized groups, are central to implementation of the SDGs?
3. What tools and methods are MGoS contributing to the monitoring and review of SDG implementation? How has that contributed to accountability efforts?
4. In what other ways are MGoS are contributing to the 2030 Agenda by holding governments accountable?
5. What are key policy recommendations for countries to ensure an enabling environment for the work of MGoS to be valued and included in the overall reporting on progress made on the 2030 Agenda?