



Volunteer Groups' thematic position paper to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021

Executive Summary

Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic **through volunteering** that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

Volunteers are building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

Volunteers, and support for their efforts, are essential to not only the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but also the sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and volunteer groups are heartened by the **growing acknowledgement of the role of the volunteers in the implementation of the Goals.**

Recommendations

The Stakeholder group representing volunteers offers the following recommendations to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for 2021, and beyond:

- 1. Formally recognise the contribution of volunteering to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF 2021**

All Member States should include the contribution of volunteers in their VNRs. In 2020, countries around the world as diverse as Benin, Brunei Darussalam, India, Kenya, Malawi, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Samoa, and Slovenia all strongly substantiated positive contribution of volunteering to SDGs in their VNRs.

2. Ensure that volunteer groups are fully recognised and supported in national plans and strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda

Every country should build volunteering into their plans and strategies. Currently, nearly 100 countries throughout the world have policies or legislation on volunteering, including legislation that supports and promotes volunteering.

3. Follow the lead of Member States by affirming their full support for the implementation of A/RES/67/290, which supports the participation of non-governmental actors

All governments should continue to engage all stakeholders as contributors to and beneficiaries of policies that will allow us all to work towards the 2030 Agenda. The 2018 resolution A/RES/73/140 commends volunteers and calls on Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer involving and civil society organisations. This resolution also calls on Member States to include information on the scale, contribution, and impact of volunteering in future VNRs, and to engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the SDGs at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider citizen engagement.

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

All Member States should consult with volunteer groups and include volunteers and the most marginalised voices as part of the mechanism to review the SDGs at national and local levels.

5. Formally recognize the role of volunteering in crisis prevention, management, and resolution

Volunteers and groups organising volunteers are working daily to meet the SDGs in their local communities and are at the front lines of Covid-19 relief, climate change action, and other extraordinary situations.

Volunteers are helping **build back better**.