

Wednesday, 2 July 2014

*Report on “Implementing Rio+20 and reviewing progress:
spurring action and ensuring accountability”*

8:30-9:45am

Report Back

My name is Yassen Tcholakov, I am a member of the Major Group of Children and Youth, and also involved with the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

I am pleased to be reporting back on this morning's session entitled “Implementing Rio + 20 and reviewing progress: spurring action and ensuring accountability” conducted with His Excellency, Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak VP of ECOSOC with Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

It was made clear during the session that political will is essential to ensuring that the HLPF can be an effective, inclusive and transparent *accountability mechanism* for sustainable development. We were heartened to see a number of Member States in attendance at the session, both actively engaged in the discussion and supportive of the ideas raised.

Major Groups and other stakeholders, including volunteers, aging peoples and people with disability must be at the center of the sustainable development agenda rather than on the side lines. Discussions highlighted the need for them to actively lend their expertise to ongoing processes and have access to all relevant documents and meetings.

Intensive dialogues also highlighted the need for an “ecosystem of accountability” to enhance the institutional architectures of the HLPF. While ensuring that we use existing structures the need for Secretariat support and a Bureau was raised. Because reviews are voluntary, the structure must foster experience sharing and offer effective support for the implementation at the national level with the contribution of national sustainable development councils and regional Commissions.

The Forum was also encouraged to build upon existing review processes in order to create a hybrid mechanism based on AMR and UPR+. Comprehensive reporting, including shadow reports integrating the view of citizen, natural resource accounting and peer review processes will enable all levels of public administration to work together on means of and implementation in order to reach transformative outcomes. Access to quality disaggregated data is essential for all constituencies.

Finally, the framework must be inclusive, participatory and multi-layered using a human rights based approach. The Inclusion of civil society will not only strengthen legitimacy and credibility of the monitoring structure but also contribute to the core work of the HLPF. Having entry points is not enough; the difference between theoretical and real access for civil society will ultimately decide the outcome of SDGs.