



Making HLPF fit for purpose

Input from the panel at UN OSD by

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What is the mandate for the reform?

➔ From 67/290:

§29. *Further decides* to review at its seventy-third session the format and the organizational aspects of the forum, unless otherwise decided;

Definitions (Oxford and internet)

Format: The way in which something is arranged or set out.

Organizational aspects: indicate how a structure is organised as a whole.



This means

- ▶ the way HLPF is working and how it functions – in other words everything about HLPF, except its mandates, can be reviewed, improved, added to or changed.
- ▶ Remembering the base-line of HLPF which comes from the Rio 2012 Outcome Document and the 2030 Agenda



What is the HLPF? Is it -

- The High Level Political Forum
 - The High Level Political Future
 - The High Level Political Fiasco
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For the new cycle – agenda setting

Agenda setting for the new cycle – a continuous process combining input from the implementing partnerships in the field with “the in-house system” (i.e. the UN)

Input from GSDR, from the UN system, the AAAA process, from stakeholders and from member states

Emerging issues, GAP analysis on implementing the SDGs, new topical and thematic identification, finance, circular economy, partnership

The new cycle and topics for the review process requires a stronger HLPF with a dedicated secretariat



For the new cycle – fulfil the mandates – and those not completed, need new focus

Mandates fulfilled? 19 identified ...

Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations	Perhaps
A concise negotiated political declaration for the GA	Not really
Follow up and review	YES
A focused, dynamic, action-oriented agenda - new and emerging sustainable development challenges	Perhaps to negligible
Enhance the integration of the three dimensions	improving
A thematic focus with that of ECOSOC and the 2030 agenda	YES
Follow up, review progress in the implementation of all major United Nations conferences	Improving
Involve relevant UN bodies, in particular WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions, their respective means of implementation	Not really
Improve cooperation/coordination within the UN system on sustainable development programmes and policies	Has begun, needs strength

Mandates fulfilled? 19 identified

⁹ Promote sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation	YES
Facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned	YES, but mostly on successes
Promote system-wide coherence and coordination of SD policies;	Improving
Take into account work of Development Cooperation Forum, other activities of ECOSOC relating to integration and implementation of sustainable development;	Begun, and improving, (Yes?)
Shall benefit from regional preparatory processes	Not really
Devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries	Begun – and improving (hopefully)
Identify and address new and emerging issues	Not really
Strengthen the science-policy interface	Begun, improving
Develop an independent Global Sustainable Development Report	Improving
Deal with SCP	Improving, but far to go

The added agenda of HLPF from the 2030 doc and AAAAA

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- Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action,
 - The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,
 - The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,
 - Regional responsibilities, such as
 - The African Union's Agenda 2063 and
 - The programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
 - durable peace and sustainable development and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations
- An annual SDG Progress report by the SG based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical information collected at regional level
 - The Global Sustainable Development Report
 - The UN Interagency Task team on Science Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
 - The annual report from the ECOSOC five day special high level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD to assess follow up and result orientation on financing issues and means of implementation



Other elements in reforming the HLPF

Reforming (modernising) HLPF : The case of ‘time’, ECOSOC and HLPF

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- ▶ Time – HLPF needs need more time,
- ▶ Could combining the Ffd/AAAA (5 days), the science technology input (2 days) and ECOSOC partnership forum, (1 to 2 days) to be added to HLPF’ and made into one process, thus give HLPF the time needed? This ads or reorganizes 9 days to HLPFs 5 + 3; resulting in a total of 17 work days. Still short of CSD’s 20 work days
- ▶ Such a move would be consistent with several of the resolutions mentioned (67/290; 70/1, 70/299, 61/16) and make HLPF at the centre of the 2030 agenda
- ▶ It would not run contrary to the formality of the system
- ▶ It would allow for more coherence and integration of process
- ▶ This would bring the work on the 2030 Agenda by the Subsidiary bodies and Specialized Agencies including the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD into the HLPF process. As ECOSOC is responsible for coordinating the input from the Specialized Agencies, the agencies and a few subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC could function as ‘Task Managers’ for the various SDGs, and still keep their own specialties intact.

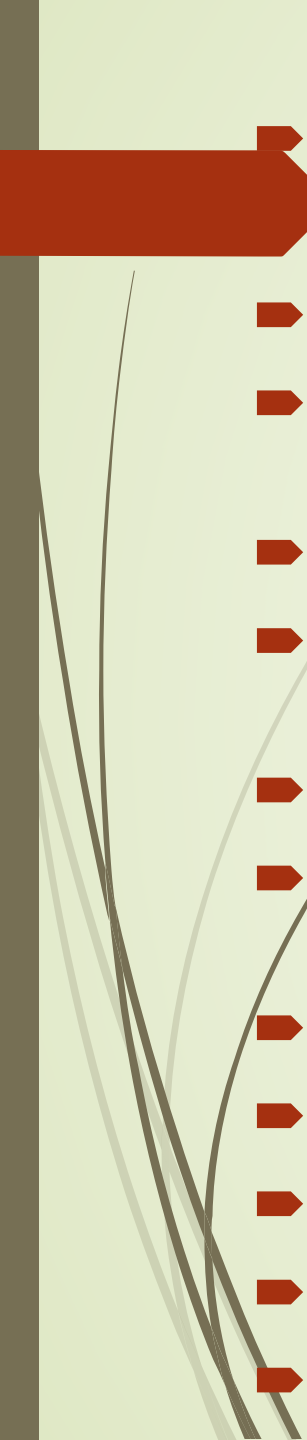
Reforming (modernising) HLPF: The case of UNGA, HLPF and a Bureau

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- If not an elected Bureau, perhaps a Steering Committee? (A Brazilian proposal in 2013)
- A Steering Committee (SC) for HLPF could have members from the 6 UN GA committees
- The SC would always be chaired by the President of ECOSOC, every four year, when the HLPF is convened under the GA, the President of ECOSOC becomes the Vice Chair and the GA President becomes the Chair;
- Such an SC would enable coherence between the UNGA system and the 2030 agenda, even help ‘solve’ the universality conundrum’ – ECOSOC 54 members, HLPF all member states
- An SC would ‘respect’ the two formal elements of the HLPF – that it is established under the auspices of the UNGA and ECOSOC;
- The SC would also be in a position to prepare the agendas for HLPF, and with the member states address national concerns, and with ECOSOC coordinate the SDGs across the entire UN system;
- The SC could also function as the formal link between HLPF sessions, not jeopardising ECOSOC’s authority and provide a formal sounding board for the secretariat
- An SC would function as the political governance structure of HLPF. As proposed and representing all member states of the UN, it would be formally in a position to make recommendations that are valid throughout the system, on follow-up and reviews, as requested by paragraph 2 of 67/290 and paragraph 82 of the September 2015 Summit Declaration;



What needs to be improved – a short summary

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- Agenda setting – developing a process
 - Emerging issues, helping to identify thematic reviews
 - The relationship between HLPF, ECOSOC and UNGA, a Steering Committee
 - Improved integration of the entire UN system in HLPF (Specialized Agencies, Subsidiary bodies)
 - Improved integration of the FfD, AAAA into HLPF, Bretton Woods, WTO, UNCTAD
 - Integrate the Technology Facilitation Mechanism/ The UN Interagency Task team on Science Technology and Innovation
 - **Regional issues, strengthened and improved, more innovative work**
 - **Integrating MEAs, Conventions and rights issues into the bigger picture of the 2030 agenda**
 - Major Groups and stakeholder engagement
 - Developing and negotiating the Ministerial Declaration
 - Implementation and partnerships/ role of stakeholders
 - How do we integrate the digital world into the HLPF equation?
 - None of this is possible unless we allocate more time and more resources to HLPF



The Challenge:

- Make sure the declaration coming from the High Level Summit on September 24 and 25, 2019 in New York has strong and forward looking wording regarding the reform of the HLPF.
- This is not yet another UN declaration by member states, this is a document which will deal with the High Level Political Forum, the coordination mechanism of the 2030 Agenda and a governing mechanism through which we may develop a sustainable future for all.
- We all have work to do to make that happen!

Finally: if we are resourceful, we allocate resources – if not, we fail.

- Everything we have spoken of and will be speaking of at this conference – reforming or modernising HLPF, making it fit for purpose, strengthening the secretariat – all this needs resources, LOTS!
- “Doing more with less” is not a truism, it is a disaster. We are faced with the biggest challenge in humanity’s existence – saving the globe. We cannot afford not to give our ideas adequate resources. We will never be able to calculate the cost of not doing enough. That cost will be astronomical and incalculable. Will you take the responsibility for such a financial disaster – or will we just leave the problems for our next generations – the youth of today and just leave everybody behind?