

High Level Political Forum: „All aboard! Joint action for successful implementation and accountability for the 2030 Agenda“

„Leave no one behind“ was the core message of this year’s High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of the United Nations (UN). Taking up this challenge, civil society organisations (CS) from Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Liberia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, South Africa and Sweden collaborate to strengthen mutual exchange and learning processes on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). CSOs from these countries joined together after their heads of states had set up the „High-level Group on the 2030 Agenda“. As High-level Group – Civil Society (HLG-CS) they intend to evaluate the implementation activities and, from there, to draft recommendations on focal points and core tasks for their governments. Both has been committed to paper in the report „Champions to be? Making the 2030 Agenda a Reality“, which was presented at the side event.

The event featured a panel discussion with representatives from four HLG-governments and the HLG-CS. After Philipp Schönrock, Director of CEPEI (Colombia) had opened the meeting, Stephen Chacha, Founder and CEO of Africa Philanthropic Foundation (Tanzania) elaborated on the purposes and aims of the event. Dillyana Berek Daten, Plan International Timor-Leste and Namhla Mniki-Mangaliso, Director, African Monitor (South Africa) presented the findings and key recommendations of HLG-CS report. The five depicted recommendations focused on the following topics: inclusiveness of the agenda; political leadership and policy coherence; financing mechanisms; institutionalizing implementation; inclusive, transparent follow-up and review on national level.

The representatives of the HLG-governments, amongst them Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister of Public Administration (Sweden), Antonio Patriota, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the United Nations and Dr. Ingolf Dietrich, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Germany). The government representatives stressed to establish solid institutional structures and promote strong political leadership, the importance of policy coherence as well as the inclusive civil society participation and partnership. HLG-representatives focused on how the group plans to follow up on the HLG activities and on how HLG and HLG-CS could work together and form cross-partner collaboration.

In conclusion, Hanna Hansson, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, CONCORD Sweden, summarized the outcome of the event: HLG-CS representatives hope that HLG will continue their work, HLG and HLG-CS plan to strengthen their collaboration, HLG-CS take the governments’ willingness to further collaboration as a commitment to form a multi-stakeholder group, HLG-CS representatives expect concrete initiatives and implementation of recommendations by HLG-governments.