

Concept Note
Expert Group Meeting
Enhancing MGoS Engagement in National Level Reviews

25-26 March 2017
Bogota, Colombia

Background

The outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20), *The Future We Want*, established a new high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) as an universal intergovernmental forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive multi-stakeholder working methods of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The format and organizational aspects of the HLPF, including how it will engage with major groups and other stakeholder (MGoS), are contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 (operative paragraphs 14-16).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) further elaborates the role that MGoS will play in the review and follow-up of the Agenda, through the HLPF. In accordance with its paragraph 82, the *“HLPF will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes [of the Agenda] at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It will promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant UN Conferences and processes, including on LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs”*. Paragraph 84 calls on the HLPF reviews to include the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and to *“provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders”*. Furthermore, paragraph 89 asks the HLPF to *“support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with Resolution 67/290. We call on these actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.”*

To prepare for the 2015 HLPF, the Major Groups and other stakeholders joined efforts through an open-ended Working Group on the High Level Political Forum (HLPF WG) as a structure to promote the coordination and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the HLPF. For 2016, MGoS have again joined efforts and adapted the HLPF WG into the HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism (HLPF CM), whose ToR can be found [here](#). This new structure aims at ensuring broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF, as well as upholding MGoS' rights of access and inclusive participation as mandated in A/RES/67/290.

Expert Group Meeting

DESA Division for Sustainable Development will organize an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 25 and 26 March 2017 in Bogota, Colombia to provide an opportunity for MGoS, along with invited experts and member states, to discuss how to ensure their effective participation and contribution to the process of voluntary national reviews at the **national level**.

In particular, the EGM will provide an opportunity to discuss strategies and approaches for operationalizing the participation of national SDG implementation committees, partnering up with governments and providing expertise when requested. One of the lessons learned from the HLPF 2016 is that stakeholders could benefit from greater coordination with governments during the lead up to the HLPF. The increasing interest in the HLPF by volunteering countries highlights the importance of partnerships with local stakeholders to promote implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

The EGM will also present an opportunity for representatives of MGoS to formulate plans for cooperation around national review processes. Through sessions focusing specifically on this critical goal, MGoS will better be able to prepare for national review processes and thus have a greater impact.

This EGM will be held immediately before the “Partners for Review” networking meeting being hosted by the Governments of Germany and Colombia in Bogota on 27 and 28 March. Therefore, this is an ideal opportunity to bring stakeholders and governments together around engagement in national review processes.

General Goals

1. Knowledge sharing among MGoS regarding their initiatives in the national level and engagement with government regarding the national level reviews, including best practices;
 - a) Provide tools for MGoS to be more effective in partnering up with governments, and vice versa, and enhance the 2030 Agenda’s implementation;
 - b) Enable dialogue between MGoS and Member States regarding the 2030 Agenda national level reviews;
 - c) Explore how to connect and integrate distinctive monitoring activities of particular elements of the development agenda with the overall SDG progress review process;
2. Share best practices and progress on MGoS reporting on their ‘implementation of the 2030 Agenda and make recommendations on how best to capture, share and incorporate inputs and report from MGoS in the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda implementation.’;

Meeting Format

This two-day EGM will be comprised primarily of workshops that allow the MGoS representatives to network and discuss the good practices and challenges they experience in the national level. It will also allow for open discussion with government and UN representatives as to increase political will by governments for the further inclusion of MGoS in follow-up and review of their commitments to 2030 Agenda implementation.

Outcome

The EGM is expected to result in the formulation of plans of action among MGoS around national review processes. It will also create new political will by national governments to engage stakeholders in their own countries in the process of reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Participants

The EGM will be open to participants from MGoS, representatives from the UN system and member states. There is funding for 15 representatives of MGoS for travel (European Union funded project). Other MGoS representatives will attend through self-funding. The conference room has a capacity of 50 participants.