

MGOS HLPF/Coordination Mechanism/Steering Group

Task Group on Follow-up to ECOSOC Retreat held on 20-21 January 2017
and meeting with President of ECOSOC on 14 February 2017

MGOS priority recommendations for strengthening the HLPF

FINAL

A. THEMATIC REVIEWS

a. Substantive

- i. There must be concrete policy guidance and recommendations coming from the HLPF and the Ministerial Declaration (see GA resolution 67/290).
- ii. HLPF Agenda should be structured for consideration of the theme with respect to each of the designated goals for 2017, bearing in mind, at the same time, that all goals are interlinked. (see also suggestions below under "Procedural" in this section)
- iii. Discussions during HLPF should address interlinkages as well as what is working and what is not, and how to strengthen implementation.
- iv. The reports prepared by UN/DESA for the HLPF should address interlinkages.
- v. The report of the HLPF should include policy guidance and recommendations, for Member States and other stakeholders, not just procedural issues concerning listing of panels and participants. [Note this would require consensus agreement among Member States].
- vi. The Ministerial Declaration is a negotiated text. The 2016 Declaration is a reiteration of what already appears in the 2030 Agenda. The 2017 Declaration should be a document that enables Governments and other stakeholders to strengthen their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, on the basis of deliberations of the theme and goals.

b. Procedural

- i. HLPF agenda should be structured to enable adequate discussion of the thematic reviews, including deliberations on all reports submitted by organizations of the UN system, intergovernmental processes (e.g. FfD Forum, STI Forum, Sendai, Habitat III, functional commissions, regional forums, etc.) and MGOS.
- ii. Consideration should be given to usefulness of panels if they do not result in concrete recommendations that can be used for HLPF to formulate policy guidance.
- iii. The number of days for HLPF deliberations should be increased in order for it to be effective.
- iv. MGOS should have access to and be able to intervene in negotiations of Ministerial Declaration.¹
- v. HLPF report and Ministerial Declaration should be distributed to all ministries by Member States at the national level for follow-up action.

¹ See A/RES/67/290, Paragraph 15.

- vi. Civil society and NGOs at the national level should also receive the HLPF report and Ministerial Declaration for follow-up action.
- vii. The Chair of the HLPF should participate in the FfD Forum and vice versa.
- viii. See below item on VNRs.

B. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

a. Substantive

- i. Formal mechanisms must be established at national level to include participation of civil society and NGOs
- ii. Formal mechanisms must be established to build capacity and strengthen participation, voices and experience of the most vulnerable and marginalized
- iii. Formal mechanisms must be established at national level to ensure participation of different ministries.
- iv. Baselines should be established at the national level for measurement of accomplishments.
- v. VNRs should follow as much as possible the guidelines provided by the Secretary-General, to facilitate review and comparison of actions taken. The Secretary-General should provide revised guidelines for 2017 HLPF as requested by many Member States.
- vi. Civil society and NGOs at the national level must be well-coordinated to participate in VNRs; MGOS need to ensure inclusion of voices, experience and concerns of those to be impacted by the SDGs, especially those left furthest behind.
- vii. Civil society and NGOs must be recognized as implementers, partners as well as watchdogs, and as the most experienced in reaching those left furthest behind, especially grassroots movements and community based organizations.
- viii. UN offices at the national level should actively reach out to NGOs and include them when implementing the 2030 Agenda – project documents should specifically include civil society for implementation.
- ix. At the national level, collaboration between private and public sectors must be carefully monitored to avoid shifting government responsibilities to the private sector or absorbing by governments of losses from the private sector.
- x. A fresh look should be given to multi-stakeholder partnerships and how best they can work together to achieve the SDGs, including the possibility of establishing basic principles for collaboration, monitoring and reporting.
- xi. HLPF should respond adequately to the VNRs, by providing policy guidance and recommendations, taking fully into account expectations from governments with respect to their submissions, which may include:
 - International recognition of action taken at the national level to ensure no one is left behind;
 - Understanding by other governments of challenges faced; sharing of information, experiences;

- Funding to increase and strengthen national capacity to further implement the 2030 Agenda.
- xii. HLPF should also formally consider findings/reports from UN organizations, intergovernmental recommendations and MGOS to arrive at recommendations for further action.
- xiii. VNRs should facilitate the adoption of legislation, create national machinery and coordinate with UN country teams, civil society and private sector in implementation of national development plans.

b. Procedural

- i. Member States should be requested to indicate their intention to submit VNRs one year before the HLPF meets.
- ii. UN/DESA should be provided with additional resources to enable it to effectively assist countries submitting VNRs, analyzing their submissions, and synthesizing findings in order to arrive at useful conclusions and recommendations for action at the global, regional and national levels.
- iii. VNRs should be submitted to the UN by end March, so that DESA/DSD can prepare a synthesis report, which provides an overview of submissions, and so that stakeholders may analyze them in preparation for VNR presentations and dialogue at the HLPF.
- iv. Given the increase in the number of VNRs, adequate time must be allocated for HLPF deliberations. At least 30 minutes be allocated for discussion of each VNR, including Q&A and commentary from Member States and MGOS.
- v. Consideration should be given to allow submission of shadow reports by civil society and NGOs on a voluntary basis (but this would require VNRs to be submitted in time for preparation of shadow reports – by end March).
- vi. VNR countries should participate in side events, thematic discussions, informal dialogues with MGOS, prior, during and after the HLPF to forge better partnerships for collaboration and coordination.
- vii. MGOS need to be better organized and coordinated to make useful interventions at the HLPF.

C. MGOS PARTICIPATION

a. Substantive

- i. MGOS discussion/position papers on theme – these papers are consolidated into a report that becomes an official document for the HLPF, and should be discussed (currently the consolidated report is listed as an official document submitted to the HLPF but not discussed as part of the HLPF agenda).
- ii. Reports on implementation of the 2030 Agenda by civil society and NGOs (not just MGOS) are submitted pursuant to paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda and should therefore be on the HLPF agenda and discussed.
- iii. MGOs should ensure adequate participation of representatives from grassroots organizations, people's movements, etc.

- iv. Adequate funding should be sought for MGOS representatives from least developed countries and SIDS to attend HLPF, to ensure their specific concerns are presented and their voices are heard.
- v. Participation in VNRs – see recommendations above.

b. Procedural

- i. HLPF agenda should include items C.a.(i) and (ii) above for discussion.
- ii. Timely submission of VNRs is essential for meaningful review and discussion.
- iii. Governments should consider including members of NGOs on their delegations.
- vi. Interventions at HLPF meeting – sufficient time must be allocated to MGOS for their participation in HLPF discussions.
- iv. Full accessibility for persons with disabilities is essential.

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