

Beyond2015

High Level Political Forum 2015

Roundtable “Our HLPF in the next 15 years”, July 7 2015

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Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to be here today, representing Beyond 2015, a civil society global campaign that currently mobilizes around one thousand and three hundred organizations in more than one hundred and thirty countries pushing for an ambitious successor to the MDGs.

Please, allow me to share some thoughts on the key opportunities, challenges and some recommendations for the next 15 years of the HLPF.

On the opportunities:

First, the name of this roundtable “**Our HLPF in the next 15 years**” is really appropriate as it brings the necessary sense of **ownership** without which the post-2015 agenda and other commitments that fall under the auspices of the HLPF will not be successful. The resolution that created the HLPF set an unprecedented opportunity for the engagement of **civil society and other stakeholders** and it is essential to set up channels within the HLPF to listen to **all** voices, especially those from the most marginalized – the ones we are committing not to leave behind.

Another opportunity is that the HLPF is **a new body, tasked to implement a new agenda**. New mechanisms for engagement, reporting, follow up and participation should be set to maximize decision making and the **promotion of partnerships for implementation**. We expect that in the next 15 years, the HLPF will be consolidated as **the** space to evaluate the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and also to forge new, innovative, transparent and accountable partnerships.

On the key challenges:

So far, the HLPF is not very well known beyond New York. We must undertake efforts to make this space **recognized and accessible** to governments at all levels (including local governments), to civil society and people’s representatives and to all other stakeholders. A commitment towards **communication, outreach** and **capacity building** is critical in this sense. Not only should people be aware of the new global sustainable development goals, they should also know how those will be reviewed at all levels.

Also, if the HLPF is expected to become the “Apex” of the post-2015 follow up and review pyramid, it will be critical **not to lose sight of the bases**, meaning the regional and national levels. The HLPF must create clear “**bridges**” between the follow up layers; after all, there is no apex without the bases.

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We expect the HLPF to provide transparency, learning and accountability at global level, to strengthen political will and foster ownership for implementation at local level. This should be the locus where the universality of the agenda is checked against and where recommendations and commitments for “rebalancing” are made. For instance, thematic working groups could be established, led by Member States, to promote good practices and advance some of the intergovernmental debate in preparation to or following up from Sessions and going beyond the limited 8-days of meetings.

To fulfil its ambitious tasks, the HLPF will demand a **dedicated, permanent and independent Secretariat**, capable of effectively coordinating the assessment of global progress, facilitating the broad engagement of civil society and other stakeholders and to manage an agenda of thematic and institutional reviews.

On the Recommendations:

We recommend that the HLPF creates mechanisms to collect information on the **contribution of stakeholders** towards the achievement of the Goals. Those contributions must go beyond official statistical sources, including data produced by third parties, such as perception and participatory researches. People must be part of the **data revolution**.

As mentioned before, it is imperative that **participation** is promoted at all levels and reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalized. Additionally, we consider that it is important to establish an autonomous, transparent, inclusive and diverse **coordination mechanism for the participation of civil society, major groups and other stakeholders in the HLPF**. The post-2015 process has generated a historical level of engagement from civil society, people’s organisations and other stakeholders and the HLPF must build on this momentum and bring in this diversity.

Finally, in the next 15 years, we expect “our” HLPF to become really “ours” and for its meetings to be as popular and highly attended as the UN General Assembly week or the Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. The foundations are set. The new agenda is about to be adopted. The next 15 years start now.

Thank you.