

CONCEPT NOTE
Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) HLPF Preparatory Meeting
9 July 2017, 09:00 - 15:00
Church Center, New York

Background

The outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20), *The Future We Want*, established the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) as a 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 major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS), are contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290. In paragraph 15 of the resolution, the General Assembly decided that, while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed:

- (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
- (c) To intervene in official meetings;
- (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- (e) To make recommendations;
- (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.

In preparation for the 2017 HLPF, UN DESA/DSD, in partnership with the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism (CM), will organize a meeting geared towards supporting representatives of MGoS to prepare and coordinate their engagement in the sessions and meetings of the HLPF. It will take place on 9 July, the Sunday immediately before the official start of the HLPF in New York. As was the case before the 2016 HLPF, this meeting is an opportunity for DESA/DSD and the MGoS Coordination Mechanism to provide a space for MGoS representatives to exchange experiences, coordinate their participation and advocacy at the HLPF, as well as sensitize national level and other MGoS newcomers to the wider global review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since there will be a number of MGoS representatives coming from countries undergoing their voluntary national review (VNR) at the HLPF, this preparatory meeting will also facilitate the exchange of important lessons learned in terms of the implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at multiple levels. MGoS representatives will be able to share experiences, ideas, and challenges around the important work of localizing and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting will also allow MGoS representatives active in advocacy at the global level to share expertise with national level stakeholders as to ensure their meaningful and active engagement in the forum.

Objectives

This pre-HLPF preparatory meeting is expected to:

- Provide the CM with an opportunity to engage the many MGoS representatives who will attend the HLPF, especially the newcomers and national level stakeholders coming from VNR countries;
- Provide a space for representatives of MGoS to come together before the HLPF and share knowledge as well as coordinate their efforts and advocacy around the individual sessions and meetings of the forum;
- Provide the opportunity for the representatives of MGoS to identify emerging issues within the realm of sustainable development that are relevant to the continued enrichment of the work of implementing and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including around matters related to the science-policy interface (SPI), financing for development (FfD), and others;
- Facilitate conversations among MGoS representatives around building coherence between their work in other UN processes with the implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the HLPF.

Outputs

This pre-HLPF preparatory meeting should produce the following:

- Online coordination documents that will allow representatives of MGoS to work together to deliver joint statements during the HLPF, as well as identify speakers for each session where they will intervene;
- Coordination materials that will allow MGoS representatives to produce joint advocacy priorities, communications and media strategies, and positions around the sessions of the HLPF;
- An outcomes report that details the substance of the discussions taking place, as well as a description of the outputs produced by MGoS towards the HLPF;
- Any other materials relevant to the meaningful engagement and participation of MGoS in this and future sessions of the HLPF.

Meeting Format

This preparatory meeting will consist of a number of types of sessions that will facilitate capacity building, peer-to-peer learning, and the creation of joint advocacy and coordination materials in preparation for the HLPF. The following is a description of each type of session:

1. **Capacity building:** These sessions will allow DESA/DSD, representatives of the SG of the CM, as well as other colleagues to set the stage for the meeting, as well as the HLPF, and provide participants with a deeper knowledge of the following:
 - a. The programme, format, and sessions of the HLPF, as well as key happenings taking place around the HLPF;
 - b. Information regarding the official MGoS session taking place during the HLPF;

- c. Information regarding the general VNR process, and the work of DESA/DSD around the engagement of various stakeholders in national level work;
 - d. Information regarding the work of the SG, as well as the wider CM, and its engagement with DESA/DSD.
2. **Peer-to-peer learning:** These sessions will allow MGoS representatives to share and learn from each other's individual and organizational experiences in the context of implementing and reviewing the 2030 Agenda, especially at the regional and national levels through participation in the VNR process. These sessions can assist MGoS in their engagement during the high-level segment of the HLPF, when ministers and other national government representatives will be delivering VNR presentations.
3. **Group work:** These sessions will provide the space for MGoS representatives to produce coordination documents towards the sessions of the HLPF, as well as other relevant joint advocacy and communications materials.

Participants

All representatives of MGoS, both funded and self-funded, who will participate in the HLPF, will be welcome to attend this preparatory meeting, as well as other colleagues from within the UN or from Member States who wish to engage with stakeholders or contribute to the substance and success of the meeting.

100 participants is the maximum capacity of the room.

Lunch

DESA/DSD will seek to provide lunch to the participants through the EC grant.