



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 18: Reviewing and monitoring progress: What have we learned and how can it advance implementation?

8 July 2015, 10.00 am-1.00 pm

General Assembly resolution 67/290 stipulates that the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016. The national reviews will function to advance sustainable development and the implementation of sustainable development goals within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. It is important that the national reviews produce reports that will be useful nationally, regionally and globally. Existing reviewing and monitoring mechanisms should be used to the maximum extent possible.

In the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, reviews are presumed to be useful as they could contribute to an understanding by individual governments on their accomplishments, and to the collective understanding of how the international community is progressing on the agenda. The identification of gaps and challenges, or replicable successes, could further influence the agenda of the forum.

For all countries who volunteer to undertake the review, such review and reporting should foster implementation of sustainable development objectives and commitments at all levels. The moderated roundtable discussions can reflect on how this can best be done and on how it can contribute to accelerating implementation on the ground. In the case of developing countries, the involvement of the UN system and development partners should promote the implementation of recommendations made by the reviews and accepted by the countries. The reviews should also provide an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned, launch partnerships for implementation, and provide recommendations to countries on the basis of their reporting. The roundtable could also explore the types of feedback mechanisms into national implementation and follow up reporting on actions taken which will constitute an important part of the review process.

The UN system is mobilizing its knowledge and resources to help developing countries in meeting the challenges that implementation of the proposed sustainable development goals will present. By providing conceptual frameworks, institutional strengthening, and linkages to other resources, UN system supports countries in the implementation of integrated approaches to their national development planning that are aligned with the post-2015 development agenda and taking into account their national priorities and level of development.

For many developing countries, the means of implementation (technical, financial, capacity building, etc.) remain a challenge; this includes implementation at the sub-national or sectoral levels. The discussions will generate ideas on how the UN-system can offer a network of support for countries to better prepare for the process of doing national reviews of their implementation of the SDGs.

Questions for discussion:

1. How can we utilise the lessons learned from existing mechanisms on reviewing and monitoring progress and how can these experiences help guide our efforts to implement the post-2015 development agenda?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses on monitoring and reviewing, drawing from lessons from the MDGs and other existing peer review mechanisms?



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3. How can the reviews be organized so that they are transparent and inclusive?
4. How can the results of the reviews be used to support national implementation?
5. What should the reviewing architecture look like?
6. What will be the role of the UN-system in the monitoring and reviewing process?