



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 14 - A transformative integrated agenda: how can governments, societies and the UN rise to the challenge

Moderated Round table discussion

Monday, 6 July -- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

United Nations Member States are engaged in elaborating a development agenda for 2015-2030. There is a true hope that, when they gather at the September Summit, Heads of States adopt a truly transformative and universal agenda that is adaptable to each country's conditions, and centred on people and the planet. Broad consultations have shown how much people aspire to societies where everyone lives in dignity on a healthy planet. They want democratic societies, rule of law, effective and inclusive governance and capable institutions, as well as new and innovative partnerships, engaging responsible businesses.

Governments, many analysts and civil society organizations have underscored the transformative and integrated nature of the agenda that is taking shape at the United Nations, notably of the sustainable development goals that will be at its core¹. Transformation can mean different things to different people, societies, countries and regions. But, everywhere, it means overhauling the way we live and govern societies. Governments and societies will need to adapt institutions and policies at all levels, building on lessons from the past while also embracing the future. The United Nations system is also engaged in a process to become fit for supporting the new agenda. Critical for implementation are also a renewed global partnership for development, rigorous review mechanisms and a data revolution. So is a strong political will, underpinning sustainable policies shaped through inclusive processes and scientific evidence.

Integration will be an important characteristic of the post-2015 development agenda. It does not refer only to integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions in decision-making. It also means including and engaging all relevant actors, state and non-state. Integration provides the basis for economic models that benefit people and the environment; for environmental solutions that contribute to progress; for social approaches that add to economic dynamism and allow for the preservation and sustainable use of the environmental commons; and for reinforcing human rights, equality and sustainability. Responding to the post-2015 development agenda as a cohesive and integrated whole will be critical to ensuring the transformations needed at scale.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. How far have we gone in shaping a transformative and integrated post-2015 development agenda? What are the key outstanding issues? What measures will need to be taken at the national level to implement such an agenda? What changes need to happen in societies and decision making? Where has this process started already and what lessons are we learning?
2. How should the United Nations system transform itself to best support implementation?
3. What should be the role of HLPF in promoting implementation and how can it best do it?

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>