



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 12 - Tracking progress through existing mechanisms

2 July 2015, 3.00 pm-6.00 pm

The High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) created at the Rio+20 conference will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations to advance sustainable development. It is seen by many Member States as the core platform for reviewing progress on the post-2015 development agenda after it is adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015. The General Assembly mandated the forum to conduct regular reviews on the implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives. These reviews will include developed and developing countries, be voluntary, state-led, provide a space for partnerships, including through the participation of civil society, and build upon the lessons learned from the National Voluntary Presentations of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Reviews and other mechanisms.

In addition to these country reviews, it is envisioned that the HLPF will conduct thematic reviews of progress in specific areas of the goals and targets. These thematic reviews would build on the work of other intergovernmental platforms, including those of the ECOSOC segments and system and specialized agencies, which will keep track of progress in their respective areas on an on-going basis. The GA and ECOSOC will continue to fulfil important roles in follow-up and review.

This session will discuss how existing thematic review platforms can best be utilized to track progress on the implementation of the SDGs and how the HLPF can build on their work. It will examine examples of reviews, such as those conducted in the context of development, human rights, food security, or disaster-risk reduction at national, regional and international levels. This discussion will help the HLPF to determine how the review within HLPF can best track progress, assess achievements and challenges, and identify good policies and practices to advance sustainable development. It will be important to reflect on how to ensure coherence and interlinkages with existing thematic platforms and on how these platforms can most effectively follow-up and review implementation of the SDGs and targets within their mandate. This may require ensuring that the review and follow-up of implementation draw upon quality disaggregated data from various sources as well as from evidence and scientific findings. Follow-up and review would also need to be inclusive, multi-layered, of regular frequency and effective. It is also important that the HLPF draw lessons from and build upon current reviews.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. Which existing follow-up, reporting and review platforms can be utilised to track implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including notably at international level?
2. How should such platforms contribute, building on experiences on follow-up and review of implementation thus far?
3. How can the HLPF connect and drawn upon the thematic reviews conducted in other platforms and how can it add value?
4. How should the HLPF organize its review of the SDGs and what kind of thematic focus should it have?
5. How can the platforms of the ECOSOC system be drawn upon for review and follow-up to provide intergovernmental guidance post-2015?