

Statement by Nicole Cardinal, Save the Children International
Informal Consultations on the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the Global Level
'Response to the Elements Paper'
28 April 2016

Introduction

1. Thank-you for the opportunity to provide Save the Children's views on the Elements Paper.

On Leave No One Behind

2. While 'leave no one behind' has become the call to action of the 2030 Agenda, we note the Elements Paper lacks any reference to how the HLPF will focus on the progress of the poorest and most vulnerable people. In line with paragraph 74(e) of the agenda, this should be addressed in the Zero Draft.

On Themes

3. While themes may provide a lens through which to review the SDGs, we think it's far more important to have an in-depth review of some SDGs each year. We suggest reviewing eight goals plus Goal 17 in year one, eight goals plus Goal 17 in year two, and all goals in year three. Such a cycle would allow each goal to be reviewed in-depth five times over the course of the agenda (with Goal 17 reviewed annually), without siloing the agenda in a way that a four goal per year cycle might. Regardless which goals are reviewed in-depth, the interlinkages between all goals should be highlighted every year.

On National Reviews

4. We support States volunteering for national reviews at least twice, and ideally three times. To attract high-level attendees to the HLPF, national reviews should allow for multi-stakeholder participation and interactive dialogue based on a State report, a UN report summarizing information from non-state actors, and a UN report summarizing information and data from across the UN system.

On Participation

5. We appreciate that the HLPF shall be 'open' to stakeholder participation however, the agreed modalities for such participation in paragraph 15 of Resolution 67/290 should also be reaffirmed.
6. We support innovative ways to facilitate stakeholder participation from developing countries, however this should apply equally to excluded groups, including children, from developed countries.

On Inputs

7. The HLPF should consider written and/or oral inputs for reviews from a range of stakeholders and UN processes. While a web-based platform for inputs is welcomed, inputs must be synthesized in a concise and user-friendly format if they are realistically going to be taken into account.

On Outputs

8. Finally, in addition to the Ministerial Declaration, we support a summary that synthesizes recommendations provided via inputs in advance of the HLPF as well as recommendations arising from discussions at the HLPF. Concrete recommendations for Member States and non-state actors to act upon in the time between HLPFs will be essential if the forum is to successfully drive implementation.