



UNITED NATIONS (UN) COMMITTEE

Leslie Wright, International Chairman

Presentation to the first informal consultation with Stakeholders
Roadmap for consultation on the follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda at the global level, 1 April 2016

EXCELLENCIES, COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It gives me great pleasure to address you today on behalf of Maria Jose Oestergaard, President of Zonta International, a leading organization with General Consultative status at ECOSOC since 1969, working to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy since 1919. My name is Leslie Wright and I am the International UN Committee Chairman for Zonta International.

The High Level Political Forum aims to facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It will promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues.

The inclusion of stakeholders in the follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda is crucial for the success of the process and for the achievement of the SDGs. therefore, Zonta International has some recommendations to the High Level Political Forum regarding inclusivity:

1. The HLPF shall prepare and facilitate a transparent electronic platform with easy access where
 - a. The commitments made by the Governments are clear and easy to access and Civil Society can report back whether their Governments are living up to their commitments or not.
 - b. Civil Society can include our commitments for achieving the SDGs, with measurable milestones and deliverables, continuous real time updates of successes achieved, best practices, difficulties and pitfalls encountered in the process.

The access to this platform should be possible from different types of electronic devices: cell phones, tablets, and computers. The creation of interactive Apps could be an innovative approach.

2. Regularly, the major accomplishments and best practices shall be compiled by the HLPF, shared with all stakeholders including the specific governments and the learnings used to prepare training programs for leaders of Civil Society. Because gender equality and a life free of violence is not solely a women's issue, but a societal issue, **emphasis should be made on best practices and training programs involving both men and women.**
3. The HLPF shall give feedback to Civil Society about which recommendations given by Civil Society either in the electronic platform or in meetings will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the SDGs and **how they will be taken into consideration.**
4. The use of remote meetings and implementation of webcast meetings to bring more voices into the discussion shall be strengthened. This was done with great success for example during a DPI NGO conference, where meetings were held with NGOs in Latin America and their voices were brought into the conference, as well as sharing the conference itself with them. **We recommend this technology be expanded.**

Whereas Zonta International acknowledges that it is difficult to include many voices into discussions, we would like to emphasize that Civil Society possesses very useful knowledge and experience on which practices work and do not work in the different parts of the world. Facilitating the process to compile this knowledge, allowing the people to report back on the progress made by their Governments and especially giving feedback about which recommendations from Civil Society will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the SDGs is crucial for achieving the 2030 agenda. We believe that the recommendations given will contribute to the global success.