

**High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**  
**12 July 2016, New York**  
**Session 7: Science-policy interface: New ideas, insights and solutions**

Statement

Delivered by Alvin K. Leong

I speak on behalf of Together 2030, a global civil society initiative. I am also part of a network of researchers and academics. My intervention consists of two parts.

**Policy design:** To leave no one behind, countries need to implement the SDGs by asking how to reach those hardest to reach, and adopting policies that are attentive to discrimination, marginalization, violence, vulnerability and exclusion. This has implications for policy design – as something to be addressed in the ends and means of particular policies adopted and in screening for any unintended consequences of those policies.

The HLPF should exercise its coordination role and follow up on implementation at all levels, promoting and coordinating high-level initiatives emerging from the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF should also be a forum for sharing best practices and peer and mutual learning about how to design policies that “leave no one behind”. It can ensure that “leaving no one behind” is a principle not just found within individual national plans but in the “global partnership for sustainable development”.

The foregoing is from the Together 2030 Written Inputs to the HLPF 2016 - From Ambition to Implementation: Ensuring that no one is left behind - April 2016

**Science-policy interface:**

I would like to make two points:

(1) Building science-policy interfaces should occur at both national and subnational levels, for example cities and metropolitan areas can implement their own science-policy interfaces to translate science into urban policy, to address their specific challenges.

(2) The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) is now a report that will appear once every four years. The purpose of the GSDR is to strengthen the science-policy interface and having the GSDR appear once every four years instead of every year is concerning. We propose that the GSDR should be supplemented every year during the interim three years, focusing particularly on new and emerging issues and emerging trends and actions. New and emerging challenges cannot wait four years! We hope that the Member States will seriously consider producing an annual GSDR supplement each year during the three year interim period.