



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Lessons learned from the first cycle of the HLPF and messages for 2019 HLPF Summit: What should Heads of State and Government know and how can we improve the HLPF?

Thursday, 18 July 2019, 4:00 PM–5:30 PM, Conference Room 4

Background Note

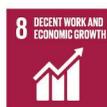
Introduction

The high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF) was created in 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference. Yet it was the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that established the HLPF as the overarching platform for the review of the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF meets every year in July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It reviews an SDG progress report, five or six SDGs and a theme, and carries out Voluntary National Reviews. In July 2019, it will complete its review of all 17 SDGs. Thus far, 102 countries have conducted VNRs. Many lessons have been learned since the first meeting of the HLPF on the 2030 Agenda in 2016.

The General Assembly decided, in its resolution 70/299, to review progress in implementing resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 on the HLPF at its seventy-fourth session (September 2019 – September 2020) to “benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum as well as from other processes under the General Assembly and ECOSOC related to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”¹. The forthcoming review provides a significant opportunity to take stock and examine the mandated functions of the HLPF with a view to strengthening it and ensuring it delivers

¹ [A/RES/70/299](#), paragraph 21





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fully on its ambitious mandates to promote and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

To inform the preparation for this review, the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will discuss lessons learned from the first cycle of the HLPF.

The purpose of this background note is to inform this 2019 HLPF reflection. In particular, the note will address the following questions:

- Has the HLPF been successful in achieving its objectives?
- How have the VNR preparations and presentations worked? How could they be improved?
- How have the reviews of specific SDGs and of the theme worked? How could they be improved?

This note builds on the perspectives offered by Member States, the UN system, and major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) during the recent expert group meeting on “*Lessons learned from the first cycle of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*”, organized 6-7 May 2019 in New York by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with the support of the European Commission.²

Highlights of considerations for the next HLPF cycle

This section summarizes some of the main lessons learned and suggests action points for consideration for moving forward with the next cycle of the HLPF and its follow-up and review of SDG implementation.

Lessons learned

- *There is a need for the HLPF to focus greater attention on interlinkages.* The 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets covering the three dimensions of sustainable development are interlinked and interdependent. Given the integrated and

² Summary of the EGM can be accessed here –



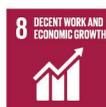


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indivisible nature of all SDGs, achieving a coherent integration of the SDGs within policies involves identification of interdependencies and areas for action to foster synergies. Further guidance is needed for addressing these interlinkages and interdependencies.

- *The timing and coordination of various processes is significant for having a robust analysis to inform the HLPF.* It is important to further align the work of the ECOSOC functional commissions to the HLPF themes. Well-timed outcomes from the functional commissions, other intergovernmental bodies, the preparatory thematic expert group meetings, the regional fora and others, can inform the discussions at the HLPF as well as the Ministerial Declaration's negotiations. More guidance should be provided on the kind of inputs that would be most useful.
- *The eight days assigned to the HLPF may be insufficient, leading to structural and logistical challenges for the HLPF.* The limited time allotted for thematic reviews deprives Member States of the space they need to undertake the in-depth discussions necessary for a formal review. If no additional days are added to the HLPF, Member States could consider adding parallel tracks for discussions, including, for instance, parallel sessions for thematic reviews and VNRs. There is also limited time for VNR presentations at the HLPF and for in-depth exchange among participants especially regarding peer learning and best practices. Member States have expressed concerns with the short time allocated to each VNR.
- *More reflection is needed on whether the work of the HLPF on its theme has been useful thus far.*
- *There is a need to encourage countries to report on all SDGs in their VNRs.* At the national level, the implementation of the SDGs depends upon alignment and integration between national goals, strategies, and plans for implementation, as well as with national delivery programs. This level is thus critical for policy coherence and the synergies across the SDGs. Countries could also be encouraged to report on the SDG indicators and to use the SG's voluntary guidelines for VNR reports to facilitate comparability and analysis.





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- *The nature of the VNRs is changing as Member States are expected to begin showcasing impact, progress and trends in the second or third rounds of presentations.* Integrated implementation can be facilitated by sharing of experiences. Even if plans are well integrated, the implementation might still be challenging. Countries could be encouraged to strengthen the process to follow-up on the VNRs. Governments could be encouraged to consider innovative approaches for national follow-up, including for instance, peer reviews, which can also feed in the next VNR.
- *The constructive engagement of stakeholders at the national level and at the HLPF is an important factor in effective SDG implementation and follow-up and review.* There is growing evidence that developing and implementing policy hinges on engaging the most relevant set of stakeholders for the issue, as well as sustained funding and organizational learning. The inclusive engagement of stakeholders can also drive innovation and integration in SDG implementation. There needs to be institutionalized ways of engaging stakeholders.
- *The reflection on the preparation of the review of the format and modalities of the HLPF must start early.* The EGM convened in May 2019 was an important first step. A “group of friends” could be appointed by the GA President in order to start the preparations for the review. It should be noted that the President did so in early June. While preparations for the review are on-going, the theme for the 2020 HLPF should be decided early on. Countries VNRs in 2020 should also proceed to prepare them based on the usual process.

Action points

General suggestions

- With a view to support the 2030 Agenda, Member States may wish to consider whether the HLPF has been able to forge effective linkages between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Accord on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction





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and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development as well as other action plans.

- The HLPF could strengthen political leadership, recommendations and guidance including through finding modalities to reflect HLPF discussions in the Ministerial Declaration.
- The HLPF could give further focus on the interlinkages among Goals and levels (sub-national, national, regional and global), while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Incentives and guidance could be developed to bring out the interlinkages.
- The HLPF could also give further focus to challenges and bottlenecks, synergies, and emerging issues in the SDG implementation process.
- The role of regional fora could be better defined in the follow-up and review process. More sessions of the HLPF could include and integrate regional perspectives and the feedback from the regional forums.
- Knowledge management within the HLPF is instrumental in support to follow-up and review, the HLPF deliberations need to be underpinned by solid analysis. Given the number of substantive contributions received, ways could be explored for distilling the essence of the inputs to inform the policy deliberations. The outcome of the expert preparations of SDG reviews should be better linked to the discussions.
- Ways to integrate the policy outcomes of relevant bodies to inform the HLPF could be identified, such as by providing further guidance on the type of targeted inputs to be received so as to have maximum impact.
- Member States may wish to consider adding additional days to the HLPF to allow for sufficient time. Or, if no additional days are added, Member States could consider adding parallel tracks for discussions, including, for instance, parallel sessions for thematic reviews and VNRs.



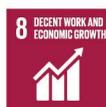


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VNRs

- Countries could be further encouraged to elaborate on lessons, practices and strategies to achieve results on SDGs and include stronger peer learning elements in their VNRs and their reports.
- To ensure countries have sufficient financial resources to prepare the VNRs, it was suggested to use the SDG Trust Fund.
- The VNR country reports could be shared earlier, well in advance to enhance their consideration and inform the HLPF.
- Countries, lead discussants and the UN system could be further encouraged to actively engage during VNR presentations at the HLPF to ask questions, comment on reports, give recommendations and stimulate dialogue.
- The VNR labs are a positive tool to promote further substantive dialogue, collective learning and exchange among Member States and partners, including the UN system and stakeholders.
- Capacity building could be prioritized to support countries in preparing their VNRs, including on data.
- In order to provide support to VNR countries and facilitate strengthened VNR reports, the UN country teams and other UN entities as well as other international and regional organizations and bilateral donors could be further mobilized to actively engage and provide support.
- Countries presenting their second or subsequent VNRs could consider looking at trends, show progress and the impact of measures taken to implement the SDGs. They should identify areas where advice on more support is needed. Secretary-General's guidelines could be updated to better reflect these issues.
- It is important to promote the follow-up to the VNRs.
- Ways should be found to better use the wealth of information from the VNRs. The Secretariat could, for example, develop a repertory of good practices on the VNRs. Time should be found to discuss overall findings.





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Thematic reviews

- Further consideration could be given on whether the clustering of SDGs should continue in the next cycle or there may be other ways to review the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. There were various views on whether or not the clustering has been effective.
- The HLPF's review of its theme could be reoriented to give further emphasis to addressing cross-cutting issues, policy coherence, trade-offs and synergies.
- Preparatory processes and inputs from various entities could be better utilized in thematic discussions.

Outcomes

- It is critical to foster ownership of the 2030 Agenda and a more widespread understanding of the HLPF outcomes.
- Recommendations and outcomes emanating from the HLPF could be more action-oriented.
- The Ministerial Declarations could take multi-stakeholders' recommendations for actions into account.
- The SDG Summit every four years and its political declaration should be a point to take stock based on evidence where we are collectively in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and what more needs to be done to accelerate implementation.

Has the HLPF delivered on its objectives and how can it be further improved?

Has the HLPF been successful in achieving its objectives?

Since 2015, HLPF has established its role as the core platform to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While there is enthusiastic engagement at and around the HLPF, there is also much reflection on how to enhance its review of progress in implementing the SDGs.





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Member States, the UN system, and major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) offered their perspectives at the recent expert group meeting on “Lessons learned from the first cycle of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development” organized 6-7 May 2019 in New York by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)³.

Participants remarked that in certain aspects, the HLPF has been quite successful in carrying out its mandate to provide a platform for discussion at the global level and maintain the momentum of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Due to the Forum, Member States conducting voluntary national reviews are producing higher quality national voluntary reports, using better data than before, and addressing the full set of SDGs. Also, more attention is being paid to the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. The high-level of enthusiasm in terms of countries coming to the HLPF and presenting voluntary national reviews, though it remains a voluntary process, is testament to its success.

At the same time, it was argued that the Forum has only partially fulfilled its mandate to provide political leadership, recommendations and guidance - key elements missing from the Ministerial Declarations thus far. There is still scope to improve the HLPF to truly become action oriented and a platform for transformative action and creating synergies.

There was overall agreement that the HLPF is a tool and not a means to an end. Despite challenges, the ambition or momentum to fulfill the 2030 Agenda should not be undermined.

Opportunities

Several opportunities for the HLPF to deliver on its functions were mentioned. The HLPF has a broad scope and unique potential to draw on a wide range of sectoral inputs provided to the HLPF by various intergovernmental bodies. Focusing more on cross-cutting and cross-regional issues, and the

³ Summary of the EGM can be accessed here –





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SDGs that are falling behind would demonstrate that a comprehensive approach has been adopted in terms of implementation. The growing popularity of VNRs is also putting more pressure on other countries to volunteer for a review, which can help present a greater overview of the 2030 Agenda's implementation.

Important lessons are learned at the regional level and they should be also considered more during the HLPF. Side events could also be utilized for technical discussions, whose inputs could be documented to inform the Forum and beyond.

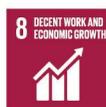
Challenges

The voluntary nature of the VNRs was identified as one of the challenges for the HLPF in fulfilling its mandate. Ever since the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, there were those who wanted more rigorous and regulated follow-up and review and those who believed that more space should be given to the national level, taking into account particular circumstances of each country and reviews at the global level should be light and voluntary. Thus, a middle ground should be found. A challenge is to see how to support countries in their follow-up and review and yet do it in such a way that all countries find it useful and not as interfering in their domestic affairs.

Another challenge is the limited time allocated to VNRs, which does not allow for sufficient time for presentations, interactive dialogue and peer learning.

Participants also pointed out that due to their high numbers, reports from all relevant stakeholders related to the VNRs have limited visibility during the Forum as they are only uploaded on the website. It was therefore assumed that they seem to play a limited role in supporting national implementation.

Moreover, a wealth of knowledge comes out of regional meetings and expert group meetings, which are convened each year on select SDGs in preparation for the forthcoming HLPF, that is not properly utilized. Also, other





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intergovernmental bodies, such as the ECOSOC functional commissions, have their own timelines and themes, which pose challenges for aligning themes and recommendations as well as the timely submission of inputs to the HLPF.

Impact

Participation in the HLPF, and especially the preparatory process for a VNR presentation, has spurred the setting up of coordination institutions and mechanisms at the national level, the identification of synergies and the convening of all actors connected to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Thus the VNR is not just a one-time thing, but a continuous process of coordination for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

How have the VNR preparations/presentations worked? How could they be improved?

It was concurred that the VNRs were overall successful, but they could be further strengthened to truly move from reporting to review, from information to genuine exchange and action. While the VNRs were not intended to be a 'perfect' instrument at their inception, the reviews are evolving and have generated not only lessons learned on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda but also momentum for the latter. Through the VNRs, countries have been sharing experiences of national implementation efforts and discussed opportunities for strengthening impact. It is from these VNRs and the extensive and inclusive preparation processes that have accompanied them, that the breadth and depth of the SDG implementation being undertaken by governments and others can be seen and drawn upon.

The VNRs have offered experiences and lessons that can be drawn upon at the national, regional and global levels, including in terms of scale and investment for delivering the 17 SDGs. The VNRs have also showed that the 2030 Agenda serves as a blueprint for new or revised sustainable development plans or strategies, which has contributed to accelerating implementation and enhancing coherence and integration among sectoral and other national strategies.





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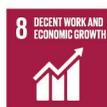
Impact of the VNRs

The impact of the VNR process on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is intrinsically linked to how it is structured at the national level and whether there is a meaningful follow-up process after the presentation at the HLPF. It has been highlighted that the VNR process triggered the establishment of coordination mechanisms to prepare the reviews and which, in many cases, remain in place after the VNR was presented. Examples include technical working groups and inter-ministerial committees. Moreover, it has been noted that the integration of the SDGs in state budgets and national SDG reporting in some countries would have been difficult without the momentum for sustainable development that was created through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up and review of implementation at the global level.

The content of the VNRs reflects a process of political prioritization and, in some cases, revealed new national priorities. Also, the alignment of the 2030 Agenda and other political agendas was considered critical to maximize synergies and to ensure coherence, as well as to avoid the burden of double or triple reporting. Examples include alignment with the European integration process and with the African Union's Agenda 2063 or plans of action for countries in special situations.

It has been stressed, in this regard, that the value of the VNRs lies in its process, which is much more than the 15-minute presentation at the HLPF: the VNRs require a thorough and inclusive preparatory process prior to the HLPF and follow-up actions upon return from HLPF. These follow-up actions may include interim reports on SDG implementation at the national level to maintain momentum between VNR presentations at the HLPF including to parliament.

Institutionalization of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up and review is also important for long-term engagement, particularly when there is a change of government. The VNR report was considered a





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comprehensive document on the SDG implementation efforts undertaken and hence allows for effective hand-over to the next government.

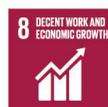
Strengthening peer learning and partnerships

The VNRs are considered an important opportunity to collaborate within society as well as beyond national borders.

Stakeholder participation is considered key for a truly inclusive VNR process. However, the development of mechanisms for effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement beyond ad hoc measures remains challenging in many countries. It has been noted that there is a general lack of awareness of the 2030 Agenda four years into its implementation. As implementation happens at the local level, the creation of ownership by subnational and local authorities is key. Similarly, the private sector is considered an important partner in achieving the SDGs. Stakeholders have stressed that there is need for dialogue and space to share shadow reports as part of the inputs to the HLPF.

The regional sustainable development forums convened by the UN Regional Commissions were considered as an opportunity to exchange more in-depth on individual VNRs. It was suggested that countries could submit their interim VNRs to the regional forums, receive comments and subsequently submit the final reports to the HLPF. The regional forums could also be valuable platforms to address transboundary issues. Better linking the national, regional and global levels to approach sustainable development more strategically was considered as a challenge to be addressed moving into the next cycle of reviews.

It has been widely discussed that, while 15 minutes for the Government presentation of the VNR may be sufficient, more time is needed for the interactive discussion following the presentation. In addition, to strengthen the peer learning character and the accountability aspect of the VNRs, it has been suggested that written questions could be collected,





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followed by written replies. Moreover, the Member States making up the Group of Friends of VNRs, launched by the 2019 President of ECOSOC, will seek to foster dialogue and peer learning around the reviews. While peer learning may be easier among countries of a given region, the value of peer learning exercises between regions and countries at different levels of development was also stressed.

The VNR Labs, launched at the HLPF in 2018, seek to provide a further platform for peer learning on cross-cutting issues among Member States, the UN system and stakeholders. The VNRs' mandate to foster partnerships and provide matchmaking between challenges and existing solutions needs to be strengthened in a collaborative effort by countries and the UN system. It would also be helpful to have the lessons learned from the VNRs compiled in a collective tool box to the benefit of all actors.

Subsequent VNRs

In many cases, the first VNR constituted a baseline assessment driven by the government, whereas the second VNR should focus on a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society follow-up to the measures taken to implement the SDGs and impact of actions. Going forward, second and third VNRs should clearly outline the follow-up actions that were undertaken after preceding reviews. The VNRs should also better address and evaluate interlinkages and capture progress over time. The VNRs could better reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development and become more solution oriented. Also to be discussed is how to strengthen the peer learning element of the VNRs including creating a “peer drafting process”, where the VNR country would work with other countries on a specific chapter or issues of the VNR report.





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Making VNRs more rigorous

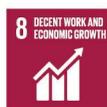
To make the VNRs more rigorous, data and statistics could be given more attention at the HLPF whether in a cross-cutting manner or as a dedicated session to emphasize the importance of disaggregated data for informing evidence-based policy making. It was stressed that the VNRs could provide an opportunity for strengthening data collection, such as through the development of a national digital platform in support of a VNR into which different government institutions could feed data. Evaluation would also be key to explain the data presented.

In terms of financing of implementation efforts, the VNRs may be a vehicle to identify gaps and needs in costing and thus could contribute to the development of integrated financial frameworks.

The VNRs could showcase the actions that are being taken and their results as compared to a business-as-usual trajectory, encouraging countries to reflect on whether they are putting in place the transformative measures necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Countries could also think about the long term and anticipate where they would like to be by 2030. This would allow to identify milestones and report on them another time before 2030.

How have the thematic preparations and presentations worked? How could they be improved?

There was agreement among participants in the expert group meeting on the importance and usefulness of thematic reviews. Many participants supported the clustering of SDGs as it has increased policy coherence and focus on particular issues. On the other hand, there were some who did not favor clustering of SDGs but thought it would be better to discuss all SDGs through a cross-cutting issue or a theme. The need to have more discussions on how to achieve policy coherence, horizontal and vertical coordination and strong structures for the implementation as well as on gaps, trade-offs, emerging trends, interlinkages and cross-cutting





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issues (such as leaving no one behind, human rights, financing, data, monitoring and evaluation) was also stressed. The thematic reviews should be prepared more systemically drawing from various inputs to ensure discussions are evidence-based and avoid diluting technical reviews of specific SDGs. The EGM to prepare the HLPF was found to be useful. In principle, all three dimensions of sustainable development should receive equal attention.

The importance of having a cross-cutting theme pointing to the right direction and engaging people to participate in order to have a real positive impact was also highlighted. As such, having a different theme every year can be challenging, whereas having the recurring theme of, for example, “Transforming our world”, would allow member states and the UN system to focus on issues of particular interest to them. Some participants noted that the risk would be to lose the constituencies around specific SDGs.

It was also noted that there should be a stronger link between the preparatory process and specific SDG discussions at the HLPF, as these do not always build on outcomes and recommendations of the preparatory process. It was noted that panelists should be from various backgrounds to achieve greater integration and rapporteurs should also be used more systematically. The panels could also be structured based on the interlinkages. It was also noted that there should be a stronger link between thematic discussions and VNR presentations at the HLPF.

Guiding questions

- Has the HLPF delivered effectively on its role to follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for the HLPF to deliver on its functions?
- Which aspects of the Forum could be strengthened to ensure effective and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and how can this be done?





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Annex: Background, mandates and objectives of HLPF

The establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by "The Future We Want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)⁴. The Forum was to be universal, and intergovernmental, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The HLPF was also to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

The format and organizational aspects of the Forum were outlined in the General Assembly resolution 67/290⁵, adopted on 9 July 2013. The Forum would meet annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment, and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly. It was also agreed that the countries will present voluntary national reviews (VNRs) that will be country-led and country-driven. It was also stipulated that the outcome of the Forum would be inter-governmentally negotiated political declarations.

The resolution further defined that when HLPF is meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC, it will:

- have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda;
- follow up and review progress in the implementation of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on

⁴ [A/RES/66/288](#), paragraphs 84 and 85

⁵ [A/RES/67/290](#)





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sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;

- take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other activities of the Economic and Social Council relating to the integration and implementation of sustainable development;
- Benefit from regional preparatory processes and invite regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities;
- devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries;
- recognize the particular challenges facing the middle-income countries;
- engage major groups and other stakeholders;
- provide a platform for agenda-setting and stocktaking to advance sustainable development and address new and emerging issues;
- strengthen science-policy interface.

The HLPF held its inaugural meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013 in New York. The first meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC was held in July 2014.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States also committed to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of its implementation. The overarching objective of the follow-up and review is to stimulate action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF has been given a role to oversee the SDG follow-





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up and review process working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums.

The HLPF conducts annually thematic reviews, including cross-cutting issues, and reviews of select SDGs as decided in resolution 70/299. The HLPF began reviewing SDG progress in 2017 and by July 2019 will have reviewed all 17 SDGs. Every four years, when HLPF meets under the auspices of the General Assembly, it reviews all of the 2030 Agenda and gives political guidance for the overall implementation.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is primarily the responsibility of national governments, and Member States have committed to conduct voluntary regular and inclusive reviews of progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, which will be country led and country driven. Country reports prepared for these reviews also support the follow-up and review of SDG progress at the regional and global levels. These reviews provide opportunities for countries for peer learning, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets and cross-border issues. They are presented at the HLPF every year and so far 102 countries have done so, some twice or more times.

Deliberations at the HLPF are informed by an annual progress report prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. Every four years a Global Sustainable Development Report is mandated, drafted by an independent group of scientists. The HLPF is also informed by reports from regional sustainable development forums, inputs from major groups and other stakeholders, as well as reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

