



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Side events – 2020 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

Given the situation linked to COVID-19, after careful consideration, it has been decided that all Side-events will be held virtually.

Nevertheless, we do invite interested parties to submit their applications to organize a side event during the 2020 HLPF following the guidelines and criteria below.

Application process will be open until 29 May 2020.

Side events will be organized on the margins of the 2019 HLPF (under the auspices of ECOSOC) and sponsored by Member States, the UN system and other Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

These Side events of the HLPF- held outside the official programme - provide great opportunities to discuss the theme and SDGs under review at the HLPF, deepen the discussion on Voluntary National Reviews, identify new and emerging issues, listen to all voices, and help spread greater awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

### Criteria for side events

Countries, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and UN entities, together with 17 confirmed slots for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGOS), can be main organizers for the side events at UN Headquarters.

In view of the large number of requests anticipated and taking into consideration the very limited time allocated for the Side Events, requests should be limited to **ONE** per entity.

- In case countries, IGOs and UN entities submit requests to organize more than one event they will be asked to consolidate their events. Regrettably, more than one event per entity cannot be accommodated.
- The side events should be open to all participants with valid ground pass and not exceeding room capacity. Organizers of closed events or by invitation only events aiming for an exclusive audience are kindly advised to obtain alternative locations.
- Proposed side events should be closely related to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and should have as a main focus the theme for the 2020 meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC *“Accelerated action and*

***transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.***

- In view of space limitations at UNHQ, priority will be given to events that show clear interlinkages between the SDGs and/or the theme of 2020 HLPF as well as events related to VNRs.
- Panels held at side events should ensure geographic and gender balance, are a mix of countries and other actors, including civil society, scientists, and academia.
- A major group organising an event represents a network of partners.
- In the case of events proposed by one of the presenting countries, there is an explicit link to your VNR.

Overall, events will be reviewed and selected so that the overall programme of side events allows to give attention to the theme under review and is balanced in terms of geography and thematic focus. A group comprised of OISC and DSDG will jointly work on reviewing and selecting the side events for the 2020 July HLPF based on those criteria.

**Process:**

The proposal should provide a detailed description of the side event, including its thematic focus, speakers/presenters and its potential contribution to the HLPF. It should also clearly indicate the main organizer of the event and their contacts.

All non-state and non-UN actors can organize side events outside UN Headquarters that are being managed by the MGoS coordinating mechanism and steering group. These entities should go to the following link <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

The full schedule of approved side events will be posted as part of the 2020 HLPF programme under the auspices of ECOSOC at the website <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020>

The Secretariat will not produce fliers, distribute notices, or run other publicity efforts for side events. Publicizing a side event is the responsibility of its organizers.

Official interpretation services are not available for side events.

All queries related to side events should be addressed to <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>

**The deadline for application is 29 May 2020. The HLPF Secretariat will review all submissions after the deadline and organizers will receive information about their side events by mid-June 2020.**