



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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7 to 16 July 2020

Overview – For the press

As the world confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – the central platform for measuring progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – has taken on greater significance this year as countries look for answers and solutions that will limit the spread of the virus while recovering better to build societies that are equal, prosperous and resilient.

The 197 UN members and members of UN specialized agencies, UN system organizations, Intergovernmental organizations, the major groups and other stakeholders will gather virtually for the Forum between 7 to 16 July to discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities for coordinated and collaborative efforts to speed up the implementation of the SDGs while addressing the wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic.

The Decade of Action

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals – adopted by world leaders in 2015 - provide a comprehensive approach to address the challenges we face today: from gender inequality and rising unemployment to environmental degradation. However, recognizing that the world is off track to achieve the Goals by 2030, world leaders launched the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development earlier this year, which calls for governments, businesses, civil society and individuals to urgently step up action – by mobilizing efforts, raising ambition and providing game changing solutions in the next ten years.

COVID-19 at the heart of HLPF discussions

COVID-19 has made the situation far worse, claiming the lives and livelihoods of people in every country. The SDGs must now play a major role in shaping the response to the emergency and the recovery, and the Forum presents a critical opportunity to ramp up engagement on the Goals. It serves as the global forum for providing political leadership, guidance on achieving the SDGs through the sharing of experiences, including success



Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development



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stories on the ground; as well as developing policy recommendations for strengthening implementation, follow-up and review. It will examine what specific actions can move the world in the right direction, to invest in the eradication of poverty, ensure food security, provide social protection, protect human rights, promote good health, develop new educational systems, create essential infrastructure to support modern energy sources, clean water and sanitation, sustainable transport and access to technology, improve governance, tackle illicit financial flows, stamp out corruption and develop fair taxation and trade systems. In this role, the Forum promotes an exchange of best practices and supporting international cooperation. A global recession, accompanied by a staggering rise in unemployment and overwhelmed health systems across the globe as a result of the pandemic will provide an added sense of urgency to the discussions at the Forum.

Presentation of Voluntary National Reviews

47 countries will share the impact of COVID-19 and the actions they are taking to move forward from 10 to 16 July. They are: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Comoros, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, the Republic of the Gambia, Georgia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders will participate in the main events. There will be a large number of other events, including the launch of the SDG Progress Report (9 July), the launch of the State of Food Security and Nutrition Report (13 July) and a special event on SDG Acceleration Actions (14 July). The SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to scale up SDG implementation. For example, [Finland](#) is taking steps to be carbon neutral by 2035, [Mexico](#) is launching social protection floor to cover 2.5 million women including rural women, [Afghanistan](#) is strengthening its legal aid system, [India](#) has set the target of



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installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, [Siemens Stiftung](#) is using design-thinking around 17 SDGs to offer science and technology education worldwide, [Kadiwaku Family Foundation](#) in DRC started inclusive entrepreneur programme to train youth with disabilities and the [City of Barcelona](#) has produced a housing plan that serves vulnerable communities. VNR Labs and exhibitions will also be virtually organized in the margins of the HLPF.

The theme of this year's Forum is *"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*. The Forum will result in a Ministerial Declaration for guiding the way forward for the Decade of Action and Delivery.



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