

**HLPF Plenary on perspectives of Civil Society – 11 July 2019**  
**Intervention by Yvonne O' Callaghan, International Trade Union Confederation**

Thank you Chair,

Concerning the improvement of VNRs at the national level, we know that best practice is not the norm- we need to ensure that it becomes the norm. In doing so we need to ensure that the governance of the VNR process must be strengthened in terms of coherence, engagement and accountability.

In terms of coherence we need the VNR process to report not simply on individual goals but also on the interlinkages between goals. Governments need to ensure that they incorporate the SDGs official indicators into their data gathering for reporting.

On engagement, official mechanisms must be established at the national level to ensure stakeholder engagement. Mere consultation with civil society is simply not dialogue. Governments must understand that this is not simply a 'tick the box' exercise.

More importantly, engagement of the private sector cannot outweigh that of civil society in the multistaked engagement process. States cannot use the role of the private sector to abdicate from their responsibility in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

On accountability, in line with its commitment to promote transparency the VNR process should allow for:

1. A process in which stakeholders can submit key recommendations on each VNR panel and actively participate in the follow-up of the HLPFs recommendations at national level;
2. having shadow/ spotlight reports ahold considered and published not only at national level but also in the HLPF process at the global level. Critical analysis from civil society should be seen as offering guidance to governments in striving for best practice and in realizing the goals.

Thank you,