

Summary of morning meeting with the representatives of major groups and other stakeholders on “Reinforcing major groups and other stakeholder’ participation”.

As part of the 2015 High-Level Political Forum convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, the President of ECOSOC held a morning meeting with representatives of major groups and other stakeholders on “Reinforcing major groups and other stakeholders’ participation” on 30 June 2015. Building on the official discussion papers submitted by the major groups and other stakeholders on the theme of the 2015 HLPF (E/HLPF/2015/2), the meeting was an opportunity for the major groups and other stakeholders to provide their views on how the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the forum could be put into practice to ensure their effective participation in, and contributions to the forum’s work in 2016 and beyond. The following are the key recommendations that resulted from the session.

- Building on the unprecedented engagement of major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) in the post-2015 development agenda negotiations, and the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 relating to MGoS engagement in the HLPF, the forum is uniquely positioned as a true multi-stakeholder platform that can modernize the way the UN engages with MGoS while recognizing the diversity of civil society and respecting the civil society’s right to autonomously establish and maintain effective and inclusive coordination mechanisms. In this regard, the principle of non-regression was stressed;
- Awareness and understanding of the HLPF and the new development agenda by all constituents including the most marginalized should be increased and improved through targeted capacity-building efforts, regular information sharing in multiple languages, using available technology and tools and making use of the full range of actors at the local and subnational levels as a direct channel to citizens;
- The HLPF should ensure policy coherence across governments, the UN system and international trade and financial institutions. It should also continue to build upon important principles of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the realisation of national strategies for sustainable development and the creation of national multi-stakeholder advisory councils on sustainable development;
- The HLPF should build on and establish linkages between existing review mechanisms and platforms, such as the ECOSOC and its functional and regional commissions, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the different human rights treaty bodies etc.;
- All major groups and other stakeholders are critical players in setting the HLPF agenda, and need to engage in the post-2015 review processes at all levels, including at the subnational, national, regional and global levels. A standardized format for national reports was proposed, prepared in consultation with stakeholders and the UN system, which would enable a global comparison of progress between countries and across different goals and thematic areas;
- At all levels, official data could be complemented with citizen-generated data. It is important to ensure that all data is disaggregated at global and national levels by sex, age, disability as well as other factors;

- It would be important for the HLPF to foster dialogue among major groups and other stakeholders on a number of cross-cutting issues, such as urbanization or data collection, as a way of strengthening the science-policy interface;
- Consideration should be given to how to effectively engage parliamentary structures in to the review of the SDGs including in the HLPF.