

## Initial Group of 7 Elements Paper on the HLPF Review Mechanism

- The implementation of a transformative agenda will require a robust, inclusive and transparent review mechanism. We recognize that an efficient review mechanism will contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.
- The review mechanism must be an integral part of the design of the post-2015 development agenda and its implementation framework.
- The High level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) should be the global focal point for follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda including its means of implementation. It should build on existing UN practices, create synergies, and avoid duplication with existing review and reporting mechanisms. Lessons learned from the reviews taking place in the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC should feed into the high-level review and stocktaking at global level taking place in the context of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years. The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly should generate the highest political attention to mobilize action.
- We reaffirm General Assembly Resolution 67/290 with regard to the role of the HLPF on follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.
- We specifically reiterate the following principles as key characteristics for the reviews, which will be conducted by the forum under the auspices of ECOSOC: the reviews will be voluntary, State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants, focus on assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries, provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, by identifying the necessary means of implementation, taking into account capacity-building and financing needs, and by facilitating the sharing of best practices and technology and other support to be provided by a wide range of actors. The reviews should be based on long-term orientation and incentives such as access to best practices, policy advice and sharing of experiences and provide a follow-up mechanism at the national level.
- Member States should take steps to elaborate national strategies/plans, including national commitments, for implementing the post-2015 development agenda with the participation of all relevant stakeholders as appropriate, and begin their implementation in a timely manner.
- National level reviews will be fundamental to the post-2015 follow-up and review mechanism. The national review reports should include assessment of progress, achievements and challenges identified in the national implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including its means of implementation. The reporting should be participatory and include the contributions of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, philanthropic organizations and foundations in line with national laws and regulations. The submission of these reports should be done by all states on a regular basis by taking into account the four year cycle of the HLPF as well as different national realities, capacities and levels of development.
- Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible, bearing in mind the need for national capacity building in regard to improved data collection.
- Regional organizations could work to enhance, upscale or develop regional review mechanisms, including the possibility of peer reviews, for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, recognizing the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level.

- At the global level, the annual meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC should promote knowledge exchange on the implementation of the post-2015 framework through national and thematic reviews. The thematic review should focus on goals and targets in the context of the annual theme of the HLPF, drawing from existing intergovernmental thematic platforms<sup>1</sup>. Every four years, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) should feed into the HLPF under the auspices of the GA, taking into account lessons learned from national and thematic reviews conducted under the HLPF, in order to support informed decision making and strengthen the science-policy interface.
- Assessing the quality of development cooperation in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should be part of the overall follow-up and review framework, noting the progress made on this issue within different fora such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).
- The UN entities including UN regional commissions will also play an important role in supporting the reviews at the global level, through the various existing thematic platforms, and the respective reviews undertaken by relevant functional commissions of ECOSOC, international agencies and organizations, as well as other international mechanisms<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the UN entities will need to report on their specific contribution in supporting member states in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda through existing review processes.
- The UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, relevant sector- and theme-specific platforms and the HLPF should be coordinated in time, with meetings scheduled in a logical cycle and coordinated in substance. UN entities, in line with their different functions, will need to contribute to the review of implementation of the SDGs. For a successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda on the ground, the political level of the UN needs to be linked to the UN development system. By aligning the review and follow-up cycle of the Post-2015 development agenda with the four year cycle of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution, which will be negotiated again in 2016, the HLPF would offer crucial orientation to the UN development system regarding the UN's specific contribution in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.
- The reviews should be inclusive and participatory with adequate arrangements for transparency and broad participation, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.
- The successful implementation of the follow-up and review mechanism will require a thorough definition of the HLPF's working methods and functions and its relationship with ECOSOC, the General Assembly and other UN relevant processes and bodies.
- The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in 2016 should discuss and review reports related to the SDGs and their means of implementation and allocate time for sharing of experiences, information, lessons learned and knowledge between member states on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and its follow-up and review.
- We request the UN Secretary General to elaborate a proposal on a simple and consistent format for reporting for member states to be presented to and discussed at the HLPF meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC in 2016.

---

<sup>1</sup> Thematic platforms stand for those intergovernmental bodies involved in monitoring, follow-up and review of a specific issue / theme, such as the functional commissions as well as specific committees like the Committee on World Food Security and global environmental conventions.

<sup>2</sup> This would include mechanisms such as the Committee on Food Security, the review mechanisms of relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements.