

## **ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

### **I Institutional responsibilities for follow up and review.**

1. The General Assembly should have an overarching and coordinating role in the follow up of the 2030 Agenda particularly when the HLPF takes place at the highest level in the framework of the GA every four years. The main functional role in the implementation of the Agenda should rest with ECOSOC and the HLPF within the ECOSOC framework. It is important to avoid duplication between the second and third committees of the GA and ECOSOC.
2. As the central UN organ responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, ECOSOC must coordinate and guide the activities of the regional economic commissions and the functional commissions of ECOSOC pertaining to the realization of the sustainable development goals.
3. The HLPF should in a coherent and coordinated manner monitor and review on a regular basis within a specific time frame the conclusions related to UN conferences concerning LDCs, SIDS, LLDC for which special provisions should be envisioned.
4. It would be useful for the GA to provide guidelines to ECOSOC functional commissions on how they should best prepare contributions to the review of SDGs. The GA could identify priority targets, with specific statistical indicators that functional commission should address in their work and consideration.
5. The conclusions and outcomes of the ECOSOC Forum on financing for Development and the summary of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and Innovation should be reviewed as a separate Agenda item of the HLPF.

### **II Overarching annual theme of the HLPF vs thematic reviews of progress of the SDGs to be carried out by the HLPF**

6. It should be left to the HLPF to decide for itself how to address the thematic review on the SDGs.
7. Functional commissions should provide summaries of discussions and conclusions and recommendations which should be considered and reviewed by ECOSOC. The functional commissions should present these recommendations in their regular reports to ECOSOC.
8. The HLPF will of course decide for itself on the themes it considers but it could review clusters of closely related SDGs like reduction of poverty and hunger; gender issues; water, infrastructure, industrialisation; growth and employment etc.

9. Themes of the HLPH should be known at least one year in advance, preferably even two years in advance.
10. The forum on Science, technology and Innovation should address the same theme as the HLPF only if the HLPF is addressing science technology and innovation issues.
11. The UN Statistical Commission has a key role in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at the global and regional levels and should in cooperation with the regional economic commissions provide comprehensive data on the implementation of the SDGS at regular intervals.
12. New and emerging issues present themselves as the present global migration crisis has proved. It is up to the HLPF to determine how to address these issues. Coordination meetings of ECOSOC are good opportunities for taking decisions on adding new and emergency issues to the agenda of the HLPF.
13. The HLPF should have a multi-stakeholder approach as did the negotiations to formulate the SDGs and representatives of civil society, academia and the business sector should be invited.

### **III HLPF National Reviews of implementation**

14. Countries should review implementation of the SDGS at a minimum on a five year basis. A system could be set up to have regional reviews every year ie. Europe 2017, Africa in 2018, Asia, 2019. Americas 2020.
15. HLPF discussion should be preceded by regional reviews in the UN regional Economic commission which should prepare summaries, conclusions and guidelines for consideration by the HLPF. UN country teams should work closely with governments in preparing submissions to regional economic commissions and the HLPF.

#### *Voluntary common reporting guidelines*

16. The main aim of the HLPF review is to give an impetus to the implementation of the SDGs by the countries presenting a voluntary report and offer possible assistance and guidance. If a country is confronted with a particular problem in implementing SDGs the HLPF should offer guidelines and possible assistance.
17. Guidelines and a SDG implementation matrix should be devised by the UN DESA to help countries prepare voluntary reviews for the HLPF which would enable cross- country comparison. The guidelines could contain core issues pertaining to poverty reduction, growth and employment, fight against climate change etc.

### **IV Presentation of national reviews to the HLPF**

18. The country review could be presented by a head of state or government or relevant minister in a fifteen minute presentation and the full report should be distributed to the HLPF well in advance. After the presentation there should be a Q and A followed by concluding remarks by the Chairperson.
19. The national reviews should encompass the means of implementation including a summary of the financing of the realization of the SDGs. They should also contain proposals for mobilizing international private and public financial assistance.
20. The HLPF national reviews could be an important step in assessing how individual countries are implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The results of the review could give an added impetus to the comprehensive implementation of the SDGs. National reviews should encompass an assessment of official development assistance, foreign direct private investment and grants. On the basis of the assessment of international investment and aid, appeals for more assistance can be formulated.

#### **IV Regional reviews and processes.**

21. The HLPF should formulate conclusions and recommendations after conducting a national review.

#### **V Inclusion of the UN system and other stakeholders in global follow and review**

22. Civil society, academia and business sector from countries whose voluntary country reviews are being considered by the HLPF should be invited to attend the HLPF meeting.
23. Stakeholders should be encouraged to prepare reports on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda which could be submitted as an annex to the voluntary country review. National inter-ministerial committees for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 agenda should liaise on a regular basis with non government stake-holders.
- 24& 25. UN country teams should be fully involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In Serbia's case the Development partnership framework between the Republic of Serbia and the UN for the period 2016 to 2020 is fully aligned with the SDGs.

