

12 October 2015

Critical milestones towards a coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level

COVER NOTE:

1. In September 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted a new framework to guide development efforts between 2015 and 2030, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development”.
2. The 2030 Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets¹. The SDGs address, in an integrated manner, the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development, their interrelations, aspects related to peaceful societies and effective institutions, as well as means of implementation (finance, technology, capacity development etc.).
3. Heads of State and Government also committed to engage in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The follow-up and review will be based on regular, voluntary and inclusive country-led reviews of progress at the national level feeding into reviews at the regional and global levels.
4. At the global level, the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) will have the central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes. It is to work coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates, building on their work in order to boost implementation.
5. The HLPF will meet (i) every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the and (ii) every year under the auspices of ECOSOC.
6. The follow-up and review processes at all levels will track progress in implementing the universal goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in all countries, in a manner which respects their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development. These processes will be guided by a number of other principles defined in the 2030 Agenda². For example, they will be voluntary and country-led, support the identification of solutions and best practices, help to

¹ [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.85&Lang=E]

² Agenda 2030 para 74

mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, as well as be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people.

7. The dedicated follow-up and review for the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development-and the means of implementation of the SDGs is integrated with the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF will build, inter alia, on the outcome of the annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development as well as on the summary of the annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation launched by the 2030 Agenda as part of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The HLPF will also take into account the biennial ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum. A General Assembly Dialogue on Financing for Development will be held back-to-back with the HLPF meeting, when it meets under the auspices of the General Assembly.
8. The 2030 Agenda stipulates that the HLPF will conduct:
 - i. Regular reviews of country-level implementation, “including developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector”;
 - i. Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, building on the work of the functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.
9. The follow-up and review by the HLPF will be informed by an annual SDG progress report and a Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall strengthen the science-policy interface and serve as an evidence-based instrument to support policymakers³.

Mandate for the report by the Secretary-General on global follow-up and review

10. The 2030 Agenda requested “the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, for consideration at the seventieth session of the General Assembly in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the HLPF which outlines critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level. The report should:
 11. include a proposal on the organizational arrangements for State-led reviews at the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, including recommendations on voluntary common reporting guidelines,
 - (i) clarify institutional responsibilities,

³ 2030 Agenda, extracts of para 83

- (ii) provide guidance on annual themes, on a sequence of thematic reviews, and
- (iv) [provide guidance] on options for periodic reviews for the HLPF⁴.”
12. The present questionnaire aims to collect views of Member States on milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review of 2030 Agenda at the global level, so as to inform the analysis and proposals to be contained in the report of the Secretary-General.
13. It takes existing mandates as a starting point and aims to determine how these can be operationalized or further clarified or elaborated on if needed.
14. The Secretariat kindly invites all Member States to provide responses to the following questions and submit them to the Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (axster@un.org, copied to zubcevic@un.org and powellj1@un.org) **no later than 15 November 2015**.

⁴2030 Agenda states that this report should “include a proposal on the organizational arrangements for state-led reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC, including recommendations on voluntary common reporting guidelines. It should clarify institutional responsibilities and provide guidance on annual themes, on a sequence of thematic reviews, and on options for periodic reviews for the HLPF” (Paragraph 90, Transforming our world” the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Questionnaire:

For each item below, please feel free to provide an answer in any format that is convenient to you. If possible, please provide a brief explanation for your responses. You may consider using the elements in italics to frame your answers. Please feel free to leave blanks for questions you feel unprepared to answer.

I. Institutional responsibilities for follow-up and review:

1. *How can the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the HLPF work coherently in follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda? What should be the role of the General Assembly in follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Do you see a need to adjust the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly, its plenary, second, third committees in particular and their relation to ECOSOC to respond to the 2030 Agenda and ensure coherence, complementarity and efficiency? If so, how?*
 - Ensuring the coherence, complementarity and mutual strengthening of the work of the GA, ECOSOC and the HLPF will be key for the success of an effective, inclusive and meaningful follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The distribution of roles and tasks between these bodies should be based on their respective strengths.
 - In this context, it will be important that the UNGA provides an overall framework and guidance for the work of the HLPF. The GA should provide a space for discussions that are broader in scope and forward oriented. Based on the outcomes of annual HLPF sessions, this would include discussions related to overall assessments of progress on implementation, strategic discussions related to implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a general focus on addressing political hurdles and proposing concrete actions on urgent issues.

2. *Given its Charter and other mandates, how can ECOSOC help ensure that global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is coherent?*
 - It is important that the evolving UN architecture will reaffirm and strengthen the ‘analytical and coordination’ mandate of the ECOSOC in the context of the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Development Agenda.
 - A Charter-based organ, charged with promoting economic and social

issues and ensuring the broader coordination of the UN system in these fields, ECOSOC has responded to emerging realities by recently adapting its structure and working methods, including by individualizing its different segments throughout the year. It continues to be well positioned to support coherence of the global follow up and review of the Agenda as it could translate inputs from its segments' discussions, those emanating from its subsidiary organs as well as from UN development system.

- In this context, the ECOSOC could ensure the flow of communication between its segments, its subsidiary organs and GA and HLPF in the follow up and review processes.
- To be noted that ECOSOC through its humanitarian segment could support an intersectorial approach in aligning the 3 pillars of the UN – peace and security, development and human rights.
- Inclusion of the process should be ensured

3. *How can the HLPF most effectively make linkages with the follow-up and review arrangements of United Nations conferences and processes on (1) least developed countries (LDCs), (2) small island developing States (SIDS), and (3) landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)*⁵?

- As the follow up to the above mentioned conferences presents an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF will have to design specific sessions dedicated to these processes and link them to the overall theme of HLPF meetings and the overall review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will be important to reiterate that there are no two agendas for LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs but that the implementation of their respective Action Plans contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The results of the reviews of these respective Action Plans, such as the high-level mid-term review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs, to be held in Antalya, Turkey in June 2016 should be aligned and feed directly into the HLPF review of the 2030 Agenda.
- It will be important for these sessions to be solutions oriented and build on the relevant SG's report and GA resolutions. They should not repeat the work of the GA in this regard, but rather focus on key challenges and identification of possible solutions, including through exchanges of the best available information, best practices and successful experiences. They should involve inputs from all interested Member States, donor countries, the UN system, private sector, scientific community and other relevant stakeholders.
- These discussions could result in a compilation of good practices and policy recommendations.

⁵ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 82

4. *Should the General Assembly provide some guidance to ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums on how they should best reflect their contribution to the review of SDGs, and to the HLPF generally, in their work programmes and sessions? And what would it be?*

- The GA could provide guidance to the ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums in the form of **general principles addressing alignment and cross-sectoriality of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**
- The guidance should be applicable across the different bodies and be relevant to their specific mandates – as such a clear definition of cross cutting issues, including what are the criteria of defining a cross cutting issue for the 2030 Agenda , could be envisioned. It could also build on comparative advantage of the different functional commissions and intergovernmental bodies and forums and provide a solution on how to make best use of their respective mandates, including in advancing important drivers of change through targeted intervention in cross cutting issues.

- On this issue, it is important to note that UNESCO has a number of intergovernmental bodies, such as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), its Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the intergovernmental committees of UNESCO's culture conventions and the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST), to name but a few, which can provide important contributions to the review of the SDGs, and to the HLPF generally, in their work programmes and sessions. Receiving guidance on how this could be conducted from the UNGA would be useful in ensuring a streamlined process.

5. *How can the HLPF best build on the outcome of ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation?*

- The outcomes of the two forums mentioned above will be critical for assessing the status and trends and the key challenges and opportunities with regard to financing and science, technology and

innovation for sustainable development, i.e. the two key means of implementation for the 2013 Agenda.

- As such, the outcomes of the two forums should be an integral part of the agenda of the HLPF with the focus on providing relevant solution, including policy solutions for the way forward.

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

[The 2030 Agenda decided the thematic reviews of the HLPF will be supported by the reviews conducted by the functional commissions of ECOSOC⁶ and “other intergovernmental bodies and forums”⁷. These various bodies and forums are mandated to “reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages among them”. They “will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the HLPF”⁸. The HLPF, when meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC, “shall have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda”⁹. The thematic focus of the HLPF should allow the HLPF to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The GA decided that ECOSOC will base its annual programme of work on a main theme and defined the characteristics of this annual theme.¹⁰]

6. Should the HLPF thematic reviews of the progress on the SDGs (i) focus on clusters of closely related SDGs or (ii) examine progress in all SDGs based upon on a transversal theme such as gender, health or education or (iii) address four SDGs every year, taken in a numerical order, along with SDG17? If option (ii) is preferred, when and how should the transversal theme be decided upon?

- While the HLPF should be the depository of individual goals reporting, it should examine overall progress by looking into relevant transversal themes that are common to all goals and focus on identification of key structural and policy challenges and integrated solutions to overcome them. In this way, the multidimensional, interlinked and integrated nature of the Agenda would be respected, and so would the key features of the HLPF, i.e. a high level universal policy forum promoting coherence, integration, participation and integrated solutions for a successful implementation of the 20130 Agenda and sustainable development worldwide.

⁶ For example, the Commission on Social Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development etc. . . .

⁷ Examples would include the World Health Assembly, International Labour Conference etc.

⁸ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, para 85

⁹ General Assembly resolution 67/290, op 7c

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 68/1, paras 7-9

- One approach would be to decide on the transversal themes and set part of the agenda in advance, possibly during the HLPF session under the GA. Proposals for the themes and the agenda could come from the different thematic, national and regional follow up and review processes. However, there needs to be some flexibility, both with the themes and the agenda, particularly to accommodate for new and emerging issues.
- Looking at the nexus of closely linked SDGs is another approach. To make sure that this approach does not lead to rebuilding silos or creating new ones, the indivisibility of the agenda and its integrated nature should be underlined and taken into account.
- UNESCO is well placed inter-alia to inform the HLPF on the thematic review of SDG 4 on education, as well as the contribution of education to achieving all of the other SDGs. The Education 2030 Framework for Action ¹¹ (FFA), adopted by ministers, heads of delegations, representatives of multilateral organizations, civil society and the private sector on 4 November 2015 at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris includes provisions on monitoring, follow-up and review for achieving Education 2030 (paras 97 – 103). It stipulates that the Global Education Monitoring Report will be the mechanism for monitoring and reporting on SDG 4 and on education in achieving the other SDGs, with due regard to the global mechanism to be established to monitor and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- FFA foresees that periodic Global Education Meetings (GEMS), aligned with the meeting schedule of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, will be organized by UNESCO in consultation with the Education 2030 Steering Committee, to review the Education 2030 agenda against progress made, drawing on the Global Education Monitoring Report, and share outcomes with the appropriate overall global follow-up and review mechanisms for the SDGs. All Member States and other stakeholders that are part of the coordination mechanism will participate in the GEMs. In addition, a high-level meeting will be held alongside the UNESCO General Conference. These will be complemented by regional meetings on a schedule to be determined at regional level by Member States and other stakeholders.
- The Organization is also well placed to provide the same kind of support for the thematic review relating to the SDG 14 on the oceans through its Global Ocean Science Report and its Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC), as well as on SDG 6 on water through the World Water Assessment Report, coordinated by the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), hosted and led by UNESCO, and its International Hydrological Programme and global water community

¹¹ Education 2030 Framework for Action:
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf

network.

- UNESCO could also provide support for the review of STI as a transversal theme for implementing the SDGs, as well as contributing to specific SDGs (17, 9, 15 and 13), through its contribution to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, its science programmes and specialized networks, and by leveraging its monitoring and benchmarking capacities¹², as well as specialized advisory boards, such as the SG's Scientific Advisory Board, for which UNESCO is the Secretariat.
- In addition, UNESCO is well placed to contribute to culture as a transversal or cross-cutting issue for implementation of the SDG agenda, through its culture conventions and their intergovernmental committees, its network of specialized centres and experts, and its monitoring and benchmarking capacities. The Organization can also make an important contribution to SDG 11, through its initiatives on culture and sustainable urban development¹³, its work to address exclusion and discrimination in urban spaces, and to address urban environmental challenges through the sciences.
- It is also well placed to contribute to the review of SDG 16 through its work to protect cultural heritage in times of armed conflict, to stop the illicit trafficking of cultural objects¹⁴, to promote freedom of expression and access to information, and to promote culture diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace and nonviolence. UNESCO can also make important contributions to the review of SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 10 on inequalities through its multidisciplinary expertise in education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

7. What kind of inputs should functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums provide to the HLPF (e.g. negotiated outcomes, summary of discussions and analysis or other)? And how should the inputs of various platforms be presented to the HLPF so as to best support its review and political leadership, guidance and recommendations?

¹² This includes the UNESCO Science Report, the Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation, among others

¹³ Global Report on Culture and Urban Development, participation in and contribution to Habitat II Conference in Quito, Ecuador, etc.

¹⁴ Ratification and implementation of the Convention on the means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and the monitoring and implementation of UNSC Resolution 2199 adopted in February 2015.

There are pros and cons for both negotiated outcomes and focused summaries as inputs from functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies to the HLPF. What is important is that their inputs respond to the key 2030 Agenda criteria, i.e. they should take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, the crosscutting issues, the interlinkages between the different issues and universality. They should also provide an analysis of the key means of implementation and a compilation of success stories and best practices that could be shared during the HLPF.

8. ***What would be good overarching annual themes for the HLPF to address (when it meets under the auspices of ECOSOC) and how can they be aligned to that the theme of ECOSOC? Please give several examples?***

- As ECOSOC should remain the think-tank forum for the sustainable development, making use of all its functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, it could ensure that the annual themes for the HLPF under its auspices should be forward looking, building on inputs from the whole UN system and reflecting intersectorality – thus it will be aligned with the ECOSOC mandate and theme
- It will be important to support the use of cross cutting issues as themes (see point above) as this would provide platforms for discussions and recommendations to influence the overall Development Agenda.

9. ***How long in advance should HLPF themes be known? For example, (i) should there be a programme of work for the four years in between two meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly or for a longer time period or (ii) should themes be determined every year and if so how could other intergovernmental platforms and other relevant actors contribute to the HLPF review?***

- See reply to question 6.
- In addition, as highlighted in numerous previous related discussions, the crucial element for the success of the HLPF will be an agenda that is attractive and innovative and that will lead to concrete outcomes through combination of modern and traditional working methods and enhanced and committed participation.

10. ***Should the multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation address the same theme as the HLPF?***

- It would indeed be important to align the theme of the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum with the theme of the HLPF

- However, as the STI forum is intended as a very focused solution oriented platform, it will be important that the theme reflects that specific feature of the Forum
- If it will be decided to keep the themes of HLPF rather broad and policy oriented, then maybe there would be need to have a related more focused subtheme for the STI Forum

11. How should the United Nations Statistical Commission best contribute to the work of HLPF?

The UN Statistical Commission should contribute through the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) established in 2015 to develop a proposal for the global indicator framework. Part of the IAEG-SDGs' mandate is to "Report on progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, based on global and regional aggregates", The IAEG-SDGs Members will be supported by international and regional organizations with the mandate for the collection and reporting of global and thematic indicators in each of the goal areas and in relevant cross-cutting themes. It is expected that the IAEG-SDGs will establish an open dashboard (or SDG database) on the state of sustainable development goals to be hosted by the UN Statistics Division. The dashboard will contain the global reporting indicators to be adopted in 2016 by ECOSOC and the General Assembly following endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission of the IAEG-SDGs' proposed global framework.

12. What arrangements would be needed to allow the HLPF to identify and consider new and emerging issues?

- Identification of new and emerging issues should be done through regular consultation and dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders, including Members States, UN agencies, civil society, scientific community and other relevant stakeholders. Proposals for new and emerging issues should also be put forward in the outcomes of the national, regional and international implementation and monitoring mechanisms.
- GSDR could be the right tool for the collection and analysis of the relevant contributions

13. How can platforms and processes outside the UN system, including those run by other international or regional organizations and by non-state actors, contribute to thematic reviews at the HLPF?

- HLPF needs to be underpinned by a strong knowledge base and it will therefore be important that all relevant information, including from non-state actors be presented to the HLPF.
- Most importantly, and inline with the key features of the HLPF, ensuring meaningful and active participation of all the relevant actors will be critical (see replies in section V below).
- A dynamic robust online knowledge platform will also be a critical tool for collection of the relevant information from different sources.
- GSDR can also play a role in compiling and analyzing all these relevant inputs.

III.HLPF National Reviews of implementation:

Preparation and conduct of national reviews:

14. How often would countries be expected to participate in regular state-led reviews in order to allow for a meaningful exchange of experiences and feedback at the HLPF? Should there be a minimum number of reviews within 15 years to be presented at the HLPF?

These reviews could follow a similar format to the country reports that were prepared for the MDGs, allowing some degree of flexibility, perhaps every 2-3 years, as this would also be contingent on the in-country data sources available and up to countries themselves to decide upon. Ideally, they could be aligned with the reporting cycles of national development plans and with the HLPF meeting cycle, and feed into the regional and global reviews. A possible target could be 5 reviews within 15 years. These reports should ideally also be harmonized with the reporting requirements for the new UNDAFs, which should strategically link to the SDGs.

15. How can the HLPF discussions on the reviews be best prepared in order to facilitate a sharing of experiences and the provision of political leadership, guidance and recommendations at the HLPF? How would countries like to be supported in preparing the review process at global level?

The process and timelines for the reviews should be discussed in close consultation with Member States and other stakeholders prior to the HLPF so as to streamline and harmonize reporting processes at the national level, as mentioned in para. 14, and to ensure full engagement and ownership by countries.

Voluntary common reporting guidelines:

16. In order to help elaborate voluntary common reporting guidelines for State-led reviews at the HLPF, kindly indicate what issues you would want the HLPF to address systematically when it examines national implementation reviews?

The voluntary common reporting guidelines for state-led reviews could build upon the MDG guidelines for country reviews and examine the following issues:

- Introduction – with a brief explanation of how the report was prepared and the participation of different major groups and other national stakeholders in discussions, research and writing
- Reflecting on national milestones around the SDGs – their influence on the country’s development agenda
- Country-specific development context including achievements, enablers and challenges towards reaching the SDGs
- For each goal and target, the following could be highlighted:
 - o Progress in addressing inequalities, promoting gender equality and strategic linkage with other relevant SDG targets
 - o Identification of key implementation bottlenecks constraining progress, their prevalence across sectors and goals, and how to address them
 - o New challenges for meeting the SDGs (migration crisis, violent extremism, etc.)
 - o Identifying key factors contributing to accelerated progress on specific SDG targets to highlight good practice in a national context
- Progress achieved in developing more holistic, integrated solutions which integrate the environmental, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development

17. How can the guidelines leave enough flexibility to Member States while ensuring sufficient comparability between HLPF reviews to facilitate cross-country comparisons and to help track global progress? Could guidelines identify a core set of issues, in addition to the status of all SDGs and Targets, which all countries would be encouraged to address in their reviews and, in addition, a number of issues which countries might consider addressing if feasible?

The guidelines should be flexible enough to allow countries to provide information on their particular country context and the challenges this implies in meeting the SDGs, while also providing enough data on the SDGs and

targets to facilitate cross-country comparisons to help track global progress. As noted above in para. 16, all countries should seek to address how they are working to address rising inequality and “leave no one behind,” and to promote gender equality and human rights. Other issues that countries may wish to consider include good governance, accountability and transparency, as well as emerging global issues such as migration, rising violent extremism and climate change.

Presentation of national reviews to the HLPF:

18. How should the country reviews be featured and discussed at the formal HLPF meeting?

A synthesis should be provided of the country reviews, which highlight progress achieved, major challenges, good practices, and provide a set of recommendations for discussion on the way forward at the formal HLPF. A representative from each region could intervene and present the synthesis of the results of these reviews at the HLPF.

19. How can national reviews give adequate attention to the means of implementation? How can they help to mobilize new support and partnerships?

National reviews should look at the interdependent mix of financial resources technology development and transfer, capacity building, as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the sustainable development agenda, which also includes having the required systems in place for data collection and monitoring. These reviews can help to identify gaps, synergies and good practices in these areas and help to identify recommendations for mobilizing additional funding, innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships, better utilization of STI, and data collection and analysis.

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20. What kind of outcome should result from the HLPF national reviews of implementation, and how could there be a follow-up to these reviews?

The HLPF national reviews should provide an analysis of progress achieved, challenges encountered and recommendations on how to move forward. The follow up to these reviews, could include time-bound targets for reaching the recommendations, clearly linked to national development plans.

IV. Regional reviews and processes

21. How should the outcome of regional review processes be considered at HLPF?

The regional reviews should build upon the findings included in the national reports, as well as the input of the reviews held by the regional economic commissions, as well as other regional reviews held on thematic issues by other stakeholders.

V. Inclusion of UN system and other stakeholders in global follow-up and review

22. How can the HLPF support the participation by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the follow-up and review processes conducted at the global level including the thematic and country reviews? What are possible options to seek their contributions to the reviews at the HLPF, (building on the modalities for the participation of major groups defined by General Assembly resolution 67/290 and the practices of the General Assembly open working group on SDGs)?

Effective mechanisms and modalities will need to be developed to allow major groups and other stakeholders to contribute to the follow up and review processes conducted at the global level including the thematic and country reviews. The UN system can support this effort by developing inclusive multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at national, regional and global levels, which bring in the voice of major groups and other stakeholders, and provide support for their engagement in citizen-led monitoring and citizen generated data for the SDGs. This could also include the development of online fora (similar to the my world surveys and e-discussion on the post-2015 development agenda) to solicit their engagement.

23. The 2030 Agenda calls on major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda. How can such reviews be prepared and conducted at the HLPF? How can these actors be encouraged to engage in such reviews?¹⁵

- Mechanisms and modalities to gather information and create engagement from major groups and other stakeholders will need to be developed. This should be coupled with appropriate outreach, and could also include online platforms in

¹⁵ Agenda 2030 states in para 89 that “the high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call on those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.”

relevant languages, to reach a greater audience, when making calls for contributions to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Ensuring online platform accessibility will be important in this regard.

- The main results received from reports prepared by major groups and other stakeholders should feed directly into the national, regional and thematic reviews, while full stand-alone reports could be made available online on a dedicated 2030 follow up and review website.
- It will also be important to identify appropriate networks to reach different types of stakeholders, to reach beyond the 'usual suspects' and include stakeholders which often do not have access to UN processes, including smaller civil society organizations and grassroots activists from the global South. Existing networks, such as UNESCO's clubs, UNESCO's chairs, specialized professional networks (MAB committees, IHP committees, etc.), category 1 and 2 institutes, national commissions, the Associated Schools Project Network could be mobilized in this regard.

24. How should UN system contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda be reviewed?

The contribution of the UN system in providing support to governments in implementing the 2030 agenda should be a key component of national, regional and global reviews. This includes the contribution of the specialized agencies like UNESCO to providing normative, operational and capacity building support in its areas of competence, as well as support for data collection and analysis, facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations and public-private partnerships, leveraging additional funding, and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

It should also include the contribution of global coordination mechanisms to support countries in implementing the 2030 agenda, such as the global coordination mechanism of Education 2030, designed to support Member States and partners in achieving SDG 4, as reflected in the Education 2030 Framework for Action,¹⁶ adopted by Member States and the global education community on 4 November at a special high-level event at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. In addition, high level bodies should also be encouraged to contribute, such as the Secretary General's Scientific Advisory Board, which is hosted by UNESCO.

UNESCO's contribution will be reviewed through its governing bodies and internal as well as external evaluations.

¹⁶ The Education 2030 Framework for Action is available at http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf

25. What steps can the UN system, including the Secretariat take to best support follow-up and review in a coherent and effective manner?

The UN system can support Member States in undertaking their national reviews through the UNCTs, and under the leadership of the UNRCs. It can also support regional reviews through the UN regional economic commissions, and through the organization of annual regional meetings with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders on specific thematic issues, such as implementing the 2030 education agenda.

The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides a good example of how the UN system and other stakeholders can support countries in the follow up and review of SDG 4 at national, regional and global levels. It foresees that periodic Global Education Meetings (GEMS), aligned with the meeting schedule of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, will be organized by UNESCO in consultation with the Education 2030 Steering Committee to review the Education 2030 agenda against progress made, drawing on the Global Education Monitoring Report, and share outcomes with the appropriate overall global follow-up and review mechanisms for the SDGs. All Member States and other stakeholders that are part of the coordination mechanism will participate in the GEMs. In addition, a high-level meeting will be held alongside the UNESCO General Conference. These will be complemented by regional meetings on a schedule to be determined at regional level by Member States and other stakeholders.

The Un System can also provide contributions to the follow up and review of the 2030 agenda through its global monitoring reports, such as the Global Education Monitoring Report, coordinated by UNESCO, which will be the mechanism for monitoring and reporting on SDG 4 and on education in the other SDGs. It will also report on the implementation of national and international strategies to hold all relevant partners to account for their commitments as part of the overall SDG follow-up and review (see para. 6 for more info.).

UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS), in close cooperation with other partners and institutions, as appropriate, will provide targeted support to Member States to strengthen relevant measurement and monitoring capacities. It will remain the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education and will continue to produce international monitoring indicators based on its annual education survey and on other data sources that guarantee international comparability for more than 200 countries and territories. It will also work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO's mandate.

VI. Other views and ideas

26. Please add any other points you would like to raise.