

Draft Concept Note
Expert Group Meeting
HLPF 2016: Shaping the reporting by Major Groups and Other Stakeholders on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

19 April 2016

Background

The outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20), *The Future We Want*, established a new high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) as an universal intergovernmental forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive multi-stakeholder working methods of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The format and organizational aspects of the HLPF, including how it will engage with major groups and other stakeholder (MGoS), are contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 (operative paragraphs 14-16).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) further elaborates the role that MGoS will play in the review and follow-up of the Agenda, through the HLPF. In accordance with its paragraph 82, the *“HLPF will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes [of the Agenda] at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It will promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant UN Conferences and processes, including on LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs”*. Paragraph 84 calls on the HLPF reviews to include the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and to *“provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders”*. Furthermore, paragraph 89 asks the HLPF to *“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 these actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.”*

To prepare for the 2015 HLPF, the Major Groups and other stakeholders joined efforts through an open-ended Working Group on the High Level Political Forum (HLPF WG) as a structure to promote the coordination and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the HLPF. For 2016, MGoS have again joined efforts and adapted the HLPF WG into the HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism (HLPF CM), whose ToR can be found [here](#). This new structure aims at ensuring broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF, as well as upholding MGoS' rights of access and inclusive participation as mandated in A/RES/67/290.

Expert Group Meeting

DESA Division for Sustainable Development will organize an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 19 April 2016 in New York to provide an opportunity for MGoS, along with invited experts, to discuss how to ensure their effective participation and contribution to the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the HLPF, building on the extensive provisions contained in resolution 67/290.

In particular, the EGM will provide an opportunity to discuss strategies and approaches for operationalizing the participation of MGoS in the HLPF reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the reporting by the MGoS to the HLPF on their contribution to the implementation, as called for in paragraph 89 of the Agenda. In his report on “Critical milestones towards coherent, inclusive and efficient follow-up and review at the global level”, the Secretary-General suggests that such a provision is *“particularly important for the voluntary reporting and accountability by non-governmental actors who manage significant resources or assets, and therefore play an important role in the achievement of individual Sustainable Development Goals and targets on the ground. These could include, for example, business, non-governmental organizations, specific partnerships and alliances, large cities, and others. To ensure comparability, reports from such stakeholders could build on a voluntary template based on existing tools and models”*.

General Guiding Questions

- How could the modalities outlined in resolution 67/290 be used to effectively engage the MGoS in the HLPF reviews, including the national and thematic reviews, building on the successful practices of General Assembly open working group on SDGs?
- While keeping with national policies and mechanisms, how could MGoS efforts and initiatives support and contribute to the national reviews that Member States will present to the HLPF? Are there experiences from existing mechanisms that could be built upon?
- Are there any existing reporting tools and review mechanisms, including from existing intergovernmental mechanisms, that could be used as models to shape the evidence based contributions of MGoS to the HLPF?
- What elements are essential for an MGoS reporting platform and how could MGoS present their subnational experiences at the HLPF?
- How can all actors ensure that the voices and experiences of development stakeholders — especially the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind — are captured in the reporting by stakeholders?

Meeting Format

This full-day EGM will be comprised of two main parts: a morning session focusing on *mapping of existing tools and models* for voluntary reporting by stakeholders and of recommended modalities for MGoS participation in the national reviews and thematic reviews at the HLPF in line with resolution 67/290; and an afternoon session focusing on *identifying key recommendations for stakeholder reporting to, and engagement in the HLPF*. A moderated discussion of the whole will be captured and synthesized by a group of rapporteurs, to be designated by the HLPF WG, and a summary with action points will be shared with the President of ECOSOC and posted online following the meeting.

Outcome

The EGM is expected to result in a recommended set of elements that could form the basis for recommended modalities for MGoS participation in the HLPF reviews in accordance with resolution 67/290, and for voluntary guidelines/template for reporting by MGoS on their implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to the HLPF.

Participants

The EGM will be open to participants from major groups and other stakeholder sectors, representatives from the UN system and invited experts. Pre-registration in the event is required at: <http://goo.gl/forms/1PQBn5PMcZ>. The conference room has a capacity of 80 participants.

Draft programme

Morning session

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Welcoming remarks by MGoS

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Opening remarks

- President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
- Under-Secretary-General of DESA Mr. Wu Hongbo

10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m Panel discussion on mapping of existing tools and models for voluntary reporting by stakeholders

- Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business
- Rodrigo Messias, nrg4SD, Local Authorities
- Alice Claeson, Major Group for Children and Youth
- Moderator: Stephen Chacha Tumbo, Africa CSOs Working Group on Post 2015 Development Agenda

Interactive discussion

12:00 to 1:15 p.m. Panel discussion on mapping of modalities for MGoS participation in national and thematic reviews at the HLPF, in accordance with resolution 67/290 (such as CFS, UPR, RSEM, European Union, European Youth Forum Co-Management System, Global Youth Partnership for Sustainable Development- The Youth Gateway on SDGs, The Big Idea project, Frontline Methodology, Writing of GEO reports)

- Nurgul Dzhanarva, Forum of Women's NGOs & RCEM
- Moa Herrgard, Major Group for Children and Youth (Thematic- DRR-Sendai Framework- formally linked to HLPF & Science Based Review)
- Maria Veronica Reina, Asociación Azul (persons with disabilities/Argentina)
- Moderator: Jan-Gustav Strandanaes, Stakeholder Forum

Interactive discussion

Afternoon session

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. Remarks by Ambassadors Ib Pedersen and Lois Young (Denmark and Belize), co-facilitators of the Consultations on the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the Global Level (tbc)

2:45 - 5 p.m. Breakout sessions

Three breakout groups will be set up to have focused discussions and generate recommendations on (a) modalities for MGoS participation in HLPF reviews in accordance with resolution 67/290; (b) key elements for voluntary reports by stakeholders and their collection and integration; and (c) how to engage the most vulnerable and marginalized in the process.

Breakout session 1 on MGoS participation in HLPF national and thematic reviews

Possible questions: What modalities could be used to ensure MGoS participation in HLPF national and thematic reviews, in accordance with resolution 67/290? How should Member States consider/review inputs from Stakeholders and how these could be reflected in the HLPF deliberations.

Facilitators: John Romano, TAP Network & Camilla Croso, Global Campaign for Education

Rapporteurs: Sunita Kotnala, Sathi All for Partnership & Lombe Tembo, Accountability Advocates

Breakout session 2 on recommendations for MGoS reporting on their implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Possible questions: How should stakeholders submit reports regarding their contributions towards implementation (online, written, engagement in the HLPF, etc)? Format of reports/inputs to be submitted by stakeholders - discussion about templates, length, etc? (reference reporting draft guidelines)

Facilitators: Roseline Kihumba, HelpAge International (tbc) & Lamiaa Kalawi, Transparency International

Rapporteurs: Anna Rebecka Moller-Loswick, Saferworld & (tbc)

Breakout session 3 on how to engage the most vulnerable and marginalized

Possible questions: Concrete ideas for engagement - not discussions about 'how important it is to engage them'.

Facilitators: Omoyemen Lucia, Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research & Chandana Das, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) (tbc)

Rapporteurs: Fale Lesa, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) & Alistair Saviour de Gaetano, Autistic Minority International

5 - 6 p.m. Reports back from breakout groups and closing

Moderator: (tbc)

Background Documents

- [A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [A/RES/67/290 - Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development](#)
- [A/70/684 - Report of the Secretary-General: Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level](#)
- [Terms of Reference: HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism](#)
- [Synthesis of MGoS Inputs to Questionnaire for Secretary-General report on global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda](#)
- [Participatory democracy - HLPF laying the basis for sustainable development governance in the 21st Century: Modalities for major groups, Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders engagement with the high level political forum on sustainable development](#)
- Proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews
- Summary on the Retreat on the preparation for the 2016 session of the HLPF
- Report on the Retreat on the preparation for the 2016 session of the High Level Political Forum (MGoS report)

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More information about the HLPF Coordination Mechanism can be found online at:
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf