ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HLPF 2016 V22

Follow up Questions for CSO engagement in Voluntary National Review at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) after 2016 evaluation

This template aims to identify what mechanisms are in place for government engagement with the SDGs, civil society, local governments, and current initiatives from all actors in realizing the SDGs at a national and international level.

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One year later, what has happened?

1. **Based on the report submitted last year, has there been progress in updating the national SDG implementation plans?**

   The answer is No

   In the different scenarios of Dialogue with the National Government (for example, a multi-stakeholder meeting held last February by CCONG, in which both the Director of the National Department of Statistics - DANE and the Director of the Department of Public Policy Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Planning Department - DNP participated), it has been announced that the National Targets are being built in line with the development priorities of the country and in particular aligned with the implementation of the "Final Peace Agreement".

   However, there is no administrative act to date, in which the national targets and other actions of the national government to implement them have been adopted. Citizens and their organizations are still waiting for the loudly announced "CONPES Document"[1] to see

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[1] Departamento Nacional de Planeación, "The National Council of Social and Economic Policy (in Spanish Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social — CONPES —) was set up by Act No 19 in 1958. This is the highest national planning authority and serves as the Government's advisory body in all aspects related to the economic and social development of the country. To achieve this, it coordinates and guides the agencies responsible for economic and social management in the Government by studying and approving documents on the development of general policies that are presented in session." See: https://www.dnp.gov.co/CONPES/Paginas/conpes.aspx

what it will contain and specially to see if their interests, contributions and co-responsible actions will be reflected in it.

2. Have the national and local governments begun the implementation that they have submitted?

The answer is Yes

Local Development Plans of the 1.112 Municipalities, Districts, and 32 Departments were formulated and adopted by the different bodies in August 2016. "There was no pedagogical strategy that allowed local representatives to incorporate programs, projects, goals and public resources into both their government programs and the local Development Plans in compliance with the SDGs. This topic was treated in a tangential manner in the Handbook and Guidelines (How to Elaborate the Strategic Part?[2]) that served as a basis for formulating the local development plans"[3]; however, some mayors and local governors advanced initiatives to incorporate them in their Development Plans.

According to the Follow-up of the National Planning Department on 32 Development Plans of the Departments and 31 Development Plans of the Municipalities or Districts carried out in the capital cities (results available on the document "SDGs Incorporation into the Local Development Plans 2016-2019) "[4], can be concluded:

Once the 32 development plans were matched with the SDGs targets, a general SDG incorporation was found in 31% of the Development Plans (10 cases). Additionally, in 47% of the development plans (15 cases), the SDGs matched the main Strategic Themes in which these planning instruments were structured. Finally, 22% (seven cases) of the governments in the departments incorporated in a great manner the SDGs because they linked them directly to programs, sub-programs, or specific targets of their development plans.[5]

After matching the 31 development plans, of the same number of capital cities, 45% of them presented a general SDGs incorporation in terms of approach and broad-based addressing (14 cities). Furthermore, in 29% of the development plans of capital cities (9 cases), the SDGs matched the main Strategic Themes in which these planning instruments were structured. Finally, 26% (8 cases) of the governments in the capital cities incorporated in a great manner

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[2] Departamento Nacional de Planeación; "Orientaciones para la construcción de programas de gobierno: Guía para candidatas, candidatos y ciudadanía. Elecciones de Autoridades Locales 2015". And KiTerritorial http://kiterritorial.co/

[3] CCONG, Seguimiento al cumplimiento de las Recomendaciones Ciudadanas al Gobierno Nacional para dar cumplimiento a los ODS; Bogotá, Colombia, Junio de 2016.

[4] See: https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Sinergia/Documentos/ODS_en_los_PDT.PDF

[5] Idem, p. 34.

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the SDGs because they linked them directly to programs, sub-programs, or specific targets of their development plans[6].

This important achievement must be reflected in other municipalities of the country because, in general terms, the only evidence available is that 2,7% incorporated the SDGs into the development plans.

Besides, there must be strategies to link what it has been already established to processes that make possible the adjustment of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the development plans to the same vision of compliance with the SDGs; as well as there must be guidelines to make the local governments accountable under the same premise of recognizing development with a sustainable and holistic approach as it is proposed in their development plans.

Regarding the review of the "Monitoring System SINERGIA"[7]; (official monitoring instrument to review compliance with the National Development Plan), it continues showing a program and project approach (it hasn't had any changes this year) without any clear correlation with the SDGs.

Additionally, in the report presented by the President Juan Manuel Santos to the Congress in 2016[8], in which he makes an annual review of the National Development Plan, a reference is made to the definition of institutional aspects for the readiness and implementation of the Agenda and the incorporation and monitoring of 92 out of the 169 goals that were defined globally. However, this announcement has not been verified and to date there is no public document that allows to get to know the 92 goals established in the National Development Plan and its respective monitoring.

3. **Has there been any changes to local and national contexts that have provided obstacles or changes to the SDG plan from its original submission?**

The answer is Yes

In November 2016, the Final Peace Agreement between the National Government and the FARC-EP was signed. This historical fact has established, among the 6 central points, actions that involve the revision of the national targets and related to SDG topics:

SDG	Points of the Final Peace Agreement

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[6] Idem p. 44.

[7] Departamento Nacional de Planeación – DNP, Sistema SINERGIA, Resultados del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2015; see: https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Sinergia/Documentos/Balance_de_Resultados_PND_2015.pdf, taken on June 15 2017.

[8] Departamento Nacional de Planeación – DNP, Sistema SINERGIA, Informe del Presidente Juan Manuel Santos ante el Congreso de la República, 2016; see: https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Sinergia/Documentos/Informe_Presidente_al_Congreso_de_la_Republica_2016.pdf

1, 8, 10	Point 1: "Comprehensive Rural Reform" which will contribute to the structural transformation of the countryside closing the gaps between the city and the rural areas and creating welfare conditions for the rural population
16	Point 2:"Political Participation: Democratic openness to build peace". This requires extending democracy to allow the appearance of new forces in the political scenery in order to enrich the deliberation and debate on the main national problems, and in that way, to be able to strengthen pluralism and therefore the representation of different interests and views of society, with the appropriate due process for political inclusion and participation
16	Point 3 "Agreement on the bilateral and definitive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities and laying down of arms", which aims at ensuring the final termination of any offensive action in order to begin with the implementation of the Final Agreement and the laying down of arms and prepare the institutional framework and the country for the reincorporation of the FARC–EP into civilian life
16; 17	Point 5 "Victims" The agreement creates the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and non-Repetition, which contributes to the fight against impunity by combining judicial mechanisms that enable the investigation and punishment of serious violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law with complementary extrajudicial mechanisms that contribute toward the clarification of what happened, the search for persons deemed as missing and the reparation of the damage caused to individuals, groups and entire territories
16	Point 6 "Implementation and Verification Mechanisms" according to which a "Follow-up, Fostering, and Verification Commission for the Final Agreement" will be created. Besides, there will be a support mechanism that involves the international community, so that it contributes in different ways to ensure the implementation of the Final Agreement

4. What kinds of SDG implementation mechanisms – national and international - are being set up now?

The answer is NO

The National Government issued the Decree 280 of 2015, which created the "High Level Inter-Institutional Commission for the Enlistment and Effective Implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals". The Decree

stipulates that the Commission is obliged to meet every three (3) months and appointed the National Planning Department as its Technical Secretariat.

When reviewing the National Planning Department website on SDGs (June 2017), the results and decisions adopted by this body are not available, and only three (3) Acts of the meetings remain posted corresponding to the first half of 2016.

Furthermore, after the revision of the National Training and Learning plan 2017 – 2027, which is the instrument that "…includes a set of guidelines and policy priorities that seek to guide public entities of the national and territorial order to formulate actions that promote administrative development; by the strengthening and development of capacities and competencies of its employees, under criteria of equity and equality in accessing the training…"[9]. In the 3 prioritized topics (Governance for Peace, Knowledge Management, and Creation of Public Value), SDGs are not mentioned as the mandate adopted by the Colombian Government for the sustainable development and which must be a guiding principle for the public employee's' strengthening

5. **Has civil society been more, less, or similarly included in government implementation plans than what it was during the draft process?**

   The answer is NO

   Citizens and their organizations are still waiting for the national targets (which according to the Government will be included in a CONPES document), and even more, they expect to be called, at some point in the process, in order to be "consulted" or at least "listened" as co-responsible actors, able to contribute due to their knowledge and expertise at sectors, populations and territories, as co-responsible actors of sustained development. It is still unknown if this ambition will be possible.

   It is still a matter of concern the absence of "pedagogical and communicative strategies" to make the SDGs visible, comprehensible, and applicable by the citizens. Again, the institutional spaces of the government, and the different institutional campaigns, do not have strategies that generate "citizen culture" towards sustainable development

6. **Has a national platform been established/ created formal connections with government work on the SDGs?**

   The answer is NO

   The Government has taken actions to create a "Multistake-holder Platform" but with little progress. Between December 2016 and June 2017, two meetings were held with participants from the social sector, the private sector, and academia, and facilitated by the

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[9] See:
http://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/documents/418537/16091256/Plan+Nacional+de+Formacio%C2%B4n+y+Capacitacio%C2%B4n+28-03-2017.pdf/abb6888d-64cb-4c88-95a2-2af633a05189

World Bank, with little clarity about the role, scope, and political and technical relationship among the different actors.

7. **What follow up, if any, did the HLPF provide for evaluation of the SDG implementation plans?**

Apart from the Voluntary National Reviews that every country must present, we do not know monitoring and evaluation strategies or actions to SDG implementation plans defined by the HLPF.

It would be advisable to build collectively a Follow-Up Methodology for the Agenda implementation in the different countries, which foster the dialogue among stakeholders and their participation in its implementation, while respecting diversity and the responsibilities of each actor. Previous experience of Monitoring Rounds on Effective Development Cooperation could serve as a basis to build and define a Follow-up Mechanism for the Sustainable Development Agenda.

8. **What more can the HLPF formal and informal processes do to ensure that voluntary countries are held liable to their SDG implementation plans?**

A key initiative that must be recognized, and especially with binding effect, are the CSO alternative reports which present different views under specific realities of communities and territories. These efforts made by the organizations to carry out citizen monitoring or to gain visibility of their contributions to the Sustainable Development Agenda must be fully recognized in meetings such as the HLPF and enable the political dialogue and advocacy as a co-responsible development actor in these scenarios.

Another key action has to do with the Ministerial Declarations of these Forums which are binding on the Member States and therefore, there must be repercussions in accordance with their compliance or non-compliance. They cannot be an indifferent nod; instead, these agreements must be incorporated into the action plans of the states and CSO must carry out monitoring and demand enforcement.