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Civil Society Reports: Countries under review at 2017 High Level Political Forum

Guiding Questions for a Template for CSO engagement for Voluntary National Review
at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

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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- Organization: Woord en Daad Foundation / Partos
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A. State of national government's preparation for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs – domestic and international

- 1. Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is now leading or in charge of the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (plan is, during current negotiations for new government, to find a more suitable place/ministry for overall coordination of SDG implementation)

- 2. Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks as national development plans?**

No, Dutch government wants a 'pragmatic implementation', without any new institutions or sustainable development strategies. They would like the SDG's to be more connected with current policies, and they foresee development of some new policies to reach SDGs.

- 3. Is there parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and its activity**

Committee for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. They check the yearly SDG report which Dutch MoFA sends to Parliament (the first one will be presented to Parliament in May 2017)

- 4. Are local governments in your countries actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda /**



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SDGs? If so, how

Some municipalities are engaged in 2030 Agenda, e.g. through the campaign Gemeenten4GlobalGoals. Participation could mean more communication to inhabitants about Global Goals, or bringing policies in line with the SDGs.

B. CSO engagement with the government in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

5. Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?

Yes, In Dutch. United Nations. Not available in Frisian.

6. Was there any invitation to public consultation on the voluntary national review at HLPF? If so, who was invited?

Yes, through involvement in the national SDG report (to Dutch parliament) CSO's could contribute very much to their 'own' part of the report, alongside the private sector, research institutes, local and regional governments, and youth organisations. This report to Parliament will be used as a source for the NVR, in which Partos (platform of Dutch development CSO) will ensure that the positions of CSOs will be taken into account.

7. Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting at HLPF?

Yes, very much through participation in national SDG report. This report consists on multiple parts, see below.

- A. Common part (agreed upon by all actors)
- B. Government part (civil society could influence)
- C. Local government part (civil society could influence)
- D. Private sector part (civil society could influence)
- E. Civil society part (written in cooperation with 45 CSOs)
- F. Knowledge institutions (civil society could influence)
- G. Youth (civil society could influence)

8. Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF 2017 and/or make a presentation at the VNR?

This is still under discussion, will probably be decided in May.

9. In case you say "YES", has your government provided financial support for this participation?



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See response to former question.

C. CSO national coalition-building for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs

10. Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?

[SDG Charter](#) (to which Partos is a member) and Building Change coalition (former *Ready for Change?* Initiative driven by Partos/Woord en Daad Foundation/Foundation Max van der Stoel)

11. Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets?

Some, mainly in the Nature conservation/Climate/Green energy sector. Other platforms more often focus on Agenda 2030 as a whole.

12. Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adaption of the 2030 Agenda?

With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we had a more or less regular contact. As part of the *Ready for Change?* project we have taken initiatives to develop thematic dialogues involving different ministries (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs + Ministry of Finance on financing for development; MoFA and Ministry of Economic Affairs on making Global Value Chains sustainable). These initiatives have resulted in unique interministerial meetings, but did not develop into genuine ongoing dialogues.

D. CSOs own implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SDGs

13. How far are CSOs developing their own plans on implementation of the agenda in your country?

Not very much, there is not yet a change in practice visible for CSOs. At a generic level they often use SDGs as a reference framework. It seems most of them still have to integrate the SDGs in their concrete practices.

14. Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?

We don't have information on that.

15. Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country?

Lack of knowledge about SDGs within CSOs, lack of financial means, still insufficient public awareness about importance of Agenda 2030.

16. What is the engagement of other stakeholders like the private sector in the national implementation plan? Is there a broader partnership across sectors for implementation? Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?



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As said before, there is not really a national implementation plan. Private sector participates in the SDG Charter mentioned above, which potentially also functions as a platform for SDG partnerships. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are always challenging, due to differences in organisation and differences in interests.

17. Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

Not yet. The new Building Change initiative from Partos/Foundation Max van der Stoel/Woord en Daad aims to bring about a coalition of change, in order to promote sufficient (innovative) financing for sustainable development and to take away financial barriers for sustainable finance.