

RECORD NUMBERS GATHER AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Global Civil Society Calls for Greater Inclusion and Participation to Accelerate Implementation of Key Commitments for the Survival of the Planet

NEW YORK – July 10, 2017 – Today an unprecedented 2,400 registered participants and some 70 government ministers will gather at the UN Headquarters in New York City from 10 to 19 July for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This is the largest turn out of stakeholders on record for the HLPF, the preeminent space within the United Nations to work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by 193 government leaders in September 2015.

Since the adoption of the SDGs, there has been increasing concern for the need to accelerate their progress through robust public financing by governments while highlighting the critical role of civil society and the general public as development partners in their oversight and achievement. The HLPF, convened by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), was established to bring together governments, civil society, and business to monitor, review and achieve the goals. In the second year of the HLPF, civil society is calling on governments to create enabling environments for greater inclusion and participation at global, regional and national levels.

The Coordination Mechanism of [Major Groups and other Stakeholders \(MGoS\)](#) was created to increase participation and facilitate collaboration across all major groups of society, including Business and Industry; Children and Youth; Farmers; Indigenous Peoples; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organisations; Scientific & Technological Community; Women; Workers and Trade Unions, as well as volunteers, ageing, persons with disabilities, educational and academic entities and the Financing for Development constituency, as well as other stakeholders active on sustainable development.

“Despite our diverse approaches and priorities, we are united in the commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and Human Rights instruments. The role of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism is to facilitate for the voices of people to reach governments at the main global space for the follow up and review of the transformational promises of the 2030 Agenda. It is a challenge and a unique opportunity for positive change,” stated Emilia Reyes and Naiara Costa, Co-Chairs of the MGoS Steering Group of the Coordination Mechanism.

This week the MGoS Coordination Mechanism launched a [new online resource](#) for the public, civil society, member states and media to provide easy access to position papers on the goals under review, key messages, statements, calendar of events, and contacts for issue experts to support participation and contributions in the HLPF. Civil society at the HLPF provides varied perspectives, expertise, grassroots best practices and parallel “shadow” reports on the achievement of the goals as a balance to government level reporting.

“We are committed to working with governments and the UN to improve the participation process and it is our responsibility to keep governments accountable for the SDG implementation, recognizing the urgency of this work and the interlinkages of the goals,” said Kathryn Tobin, Communications focal point of the Coordination Mechanism of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders at the HLPF. “We demand more political and financial support for civil society participation at all levels and stages of implementation if we are to truly achieve these goals, for people and planet.”

There has been unprecedented number of registrations and applications by stakeholders to host events during the HLPF to showcase their activities, challenges, gaps and successes. The numbers have clearly demonstrated the tremendous interest in ensuring progress on the goals, the desire for full participation and a positive step towards ensuring no one is left behind.

HLPF 2017 By the Numbers:

- 2400 Registrations for 2017 / 1500 Registrations for 2016 / 700 Registrations 2015
- 276 Side event applications for 120 slots
- 70 Ministers present
- 44 countries presenting Voluntary National Review reports
- 7 SDGs under review

For this HLPF, 44 countries will present their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The countries under review include: *Afghanistan; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Botswana; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Iran; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Monaco; Nepal; Netherlands; Nigeria; Panama; Peru; Portugal; Qatar; Slovenia; Sweden; Tajikistan; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; and Zimbabwe.*

The theme of the 2017 HLPF is “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” with a specific focus on seven of the 17 goals: Goal 1. End poverty; Goal 2. End hunger; Goal 3. Ensure good health and wellbeing; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality; Goal 9. Improving infrastructure, industrialization and innovation; Goal 14. Conserve oceans, seas and marine resources; and Goal 17. Build partnerships for goal delivery.

About the Coordination Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders

The Coordination Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) is a self-organized space for the promotion of broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF. Its role is to ensure that the rights of access and inclusive participation of MGoS in the HLPF are protected and upheld as mandated by 67/290 and potentially expanded. The Coordination Mechanism is a facilitator for the participation of all stakeholders that want to contribute to the HLPF. To learn more, follow #MGoS on Twitter and visit <http://action4sd.org/major-groups/hlpf/>.

Media Contacts

Brianne Chai-Onn
bchaionn@yahoo.com
917-257-6662

Kathryn Tobin
Katie@regionsfocus.org
+1 347-647-0860