



**ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

NGO
MAJOR GROUP



HLPF 2018

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2018

9 - 18 JULY

How to engage with the HLPF 2018

Outline of session

1. Introduction to the 2030 Agenda & the HLPF
2. Civil society engagement mechanisms
3. Advocacy at Global level

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

- September 2015 UN member states agreed to the 2030 Agenda, including the 17 SDGs that universally apply to all countries, with the aim of mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ECOSOC

- The Economic and Social Council is one of the 6 main bodies of the UN, with 54 member states on 3 year terms
- Responsible for economic and social policy and delivery by the 15 UN agencies, their functional commissions, 5 regional commissions and major UN conferences and summits (eg. CSW, CSocD, etc.)
- It aims to be the central platform for fostering debate, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.
- Current President: H.E. Marie Chatardová, Czech Republic, July 2017 – August 2018

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- The HLPF is the main United Nations space for dialogue on sustainable development
- It has a central role in the follow-up and review of the SDGs
- The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, plus every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days. The first meeting under the GA will be in 2019

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- The 2018 session will take place 9-18 July at UN Headquarters in New York
- The theme is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”
- 47 countries will present their voluntary national reviews
- Set of goals for the in-depth review of progress:



Voluntary National Reviews

- The UN Secretary General set out guidelines to enable clearer understanding and comparability between the reports
- The VNRs are member state led but they aim to offer a country wide review of progress at national and sub-national levels
- The reviews cover **all SDGS** and are developed to fit with national circumstances, policies and plans
- The national process should include relevant partners and stakeholders

Thematic Reviews

- The first week of the 2018 HLPF, 9-13 June, will feature official sessions dedicated to each of the in-focus SDGs
- It will also include sessions on:
 - The Secretary-General's progress report on the SDGs
 - Building resilience
 - Advancing science, technology and innovation for SDGs
 - SIDS perspective
 - Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs
 - Implementing the SDGs: lessons from the regions
 - Leaving No One Behind: Are we succeeding?

MGoS Official Session

- During the thematic week of the HLPF, one two-hour session will be dedicated to “Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other stakeholders”
- This is the official moment during the programme for the MGoS to share our expertise, highlight examples of our contributions to SDGs implementation, and speak to our priorities to the 2018 HLPF theme.

Civil Society Engagement

Civil society plays a key role in the 2030 Agenda in developing the policies; implementing programmes; monitoring delivery; and advocating for improvements at all levels:

- Global
- Regional
- National

Global Engagement: Major Groups & Other Stakeholders

- In 1992 at Rio Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development)- recognition of right of participation for all sectors of society
- In 2012 at Rio+20, demand to widen out the 'stakeholders' to ensure broader engagement of diverse constituencies
- Self organise through the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism and its Steering Group, through which participation at the HLPF is organised

Global Engagement: Major Groups & Other Stakeholders

The "Major Groups" include:

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers

The "Other Stakeholders" include:

- Older persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Local communities
- Volunteer groups
- Foundations
- Education and academia

Regional Engagement Case: UN ESCAP

- The UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific is one of 5 regional commissions which each host a pre-HLPF regional SD Forum
- Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism features 'Major Group' system for regional bodies- 17 constituencies
- 3 day 'Civil Society Forum' ahead of main government meetings, included series of workshops to share learning and develop recommendations for governments

National Engagement Case: Kenya

- National engagement via the Ministry of Devolution & Planning
- Kenya SDGs Roadmap
- 47 County administrations , developing County Integrated Development Plans
- SDGs Kenya Forum, over 100 organisations, engaged in Inter-Agency Committee
- Developed own civil society report- Kenyan CSOs Voluntary Review Report- which was integrated into official report

Lessons learned from first 2 years

1. Most countries have now developed national plans with some form of consultation
2. The consideration to Leave No One Behind is not always visible
3. Few countries have taken a 'whole of society' approach
4. Data to monitor delivery is still patchy
5. Financing for delivery is still to be defined in many cases
6. Regional Forums should provide a moment for deeper comparison within each region
7. HLPF should allow more time for each VNR

Reporting according to UN guidelines

- Majority of countries include most elements of the common reporting guidelines
- Missing elements are in many cases the thematic analysis and statistical annex
- Reports are often not structured according to guidelines which limits comparability
- Limited details on challenges and lessons learned, best practice, details on areas in which countries would like to learn from others and identification of priorities for support

Advocacy at the Global Level

CSOs can interact with Member States and the UN in a number of ways:

- Monitoring agreements;
- Briefing governments on the concerns of citizens;
- Circulating information in and outside the UN;
- Advocating positions at the national level;
- Underscoring links between national actions and international commitments;
- Highlighting the action of NGOs around the world;
- Drawing the attention of the media to key issues

Challenges for CSO Access

- Lengthy and complex process for accreditation, lags in approval by NGO Committee
- Registration is required via an accredited organisation
- Short time allocated for discussion and input, both ahead of and during intergovernmental processes
- Competition, dominance by large, global North-based INGOs
- Inconsistent rules, guidelines, opportunities for participation in different UN contexts
- Limited attention from within UN system

Tips for UN Advocacy

- National-Regional-Global links: as much as possible, lobby governments at all three levels with the same message
- Identify key member states which champion your interest
- Develop briefings on your issue with specific recommendations
- Analyse and respond to VNRs and global reports
- Collaborate with other CSOs that share your agenda

Tips for UN Advocacy

- Sign up for accreditation with the MGoS
- Work together with partners on Side Events
- Enable diverse voices from your own organisation to be heard
- Engage with the MGoS to ensure access to latest information
- Join the morning briefings in New York!

Further Information

- Official UN DESA website:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>
- UN guide to NGO participation:
<http://research.un.org/en/ngo>
- Livestream of UN events: <http://webtv.un.org>
- Major Groups and Other Stakeholders web space:
<https://action4sd.org/major-groups/hlpf>
- National Spotlight reports:
<https://action4sd.org/tools-resources/>

Get Involved!

- Join mailing lists:
 - Action for Sustainable Development www.action4sd.org/join-us
 - NGO Major Group www.ngomg.org (click “SIGN UP”)
 - Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf>
- Engage with the national implementation and review ahead of the HLPF
- Tell us about your initiative to be featured on the interactive map
- Get in touch:
 - Action for Sustainable Development oli.henman@action4sd.org
 - NGO Major Group OPs: ngomajorgroupopny@gmail.com, lhartill@bigpond.net.au