



Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Objectives of the Strategic Plan

- a) To provide theory of change for the network
- b) To ensure specific plans link together into a coherent whole
- c) To set clear impact indicators

1. Overview of the platform

1.1 Extract from agreed Mission Statement

In 2015, world leaders adopted a series of agreements to begin a critical shift away from the current unsustainable and unjust development model to a more just, equal and sustainable world. But there is a real challenge to make this happen and to ensure meaningful transformative actions are delivered.

Civil society is a crucial actor in these agendas. It has a key role to play in keeping the spotlight on these commitments, working on implementation, monitoring and holding leaders to account for the promises they have made.

Action for Sustainable Development is a vital platform to enable and empower an ecosystem of civil society actors, to engage with this broad and ambitious work programme in an effective, collaborative and impactful way. It is a platform which seeks to engage citizens and civil society from the community level and is deeply rooted in national and local realities.

We work to share information and strategies across civil society to find better ways to connect across issues, promote learning especially across development, environment and climate change, and to support citizens to widen and deepen their participation in shaping sustainable development institutions and processes.

We strengthen the links between civil society around the world interested in and working on sustainable development, providing support, strengthening capacity and leveraging resources to enable those, particularly from the global South and those

most affected by poverty, climate change and social and environmental injustice, to participate meaningfully.

We aim to bring citizens and civil society together to inspire and to commit to actions that empower all peoples, especially those who have been marginalised, and in order to collectively tackle the root causes of inequalities, injustice, human rights violations, poverty, environmental degradation and climate change. We share knowledge and build momentum for civil society organisations to **mobilize, monitor, advocate and act** collectively.

1.2 Governance and Membership

To date the membership is of over 2,200 organisations and individuals in 155 countries, 82% of members being based in the Global South.

A highly participative and responsive structure has been developed which ensures strategic leadership and steering while being anchored by strong connections to regional, national and local groups. It enables diverse discussions and joint activities through forums and opt-in work streams in order to add most value to each participant's priorities and interests.

Facilitation Group

Representatives of seven regions were elected for the global Facilitation Group for 2016-2018 as follows:

- Africa: Salina Sanou, Stephen Chacha
- Arab Region: Mohamed El Saadi, Zahra Bazzi
- Asia: Zia Ur-Rehman, Roselle Rasay (replaced by Jyotsna Mohan Singh Dec 2017)
- Europe: Barbara Caracciolo, Farah Nazeer
- Latin America and Caribbean: Alessandra Nilo (replaced by Nicolas Sautejeau October 2017), Agustina Carpio
- North America: Jack Kupferman, Shamina de Gonzaga
- Pacific: Emele Duituturaga, Drew Havea

Gender balance is ensured in the Facilitation Group as in A4SD in general.

In addition the following constituency groups were invited to nominate a representative and took part in different meetings:

- Women and girls (Womens Major Group)
- Young People (MGCY)
- Older People (Stakeholder Group on Ageing)
- Trade Unions (ITUC)
- Indigenous Peoples (IP MG)
- Persons with Disabilities (Stakeholder Group for Persons with Disabilities)
- Small or marginalized farmers and Rural People (Via Campesina)
- Social Movements

The 4 'founding' global networks also have one representative each on the Facilitation Group and provided the Coordination Team on an interim voluntary basis during 2016-2017:

- CIVICUS – the World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- GCAP – the Global Call to Action on Poverty
- IFP – the International Forum of Platforms
- CAN – Climate Action Network International

Coordination Team

In March 2018 the new Global Coordinator was selected, this is the first position in the dedicated Coordination Team and as set out in the governance document, this new Coordinator will provide the secretariat in close partnership with regional coordinators in each global region. The Global Coordinator will also be supported by a Network Officer and a Communications Officer once funding is secured, as well as ongoing coordination with the global networks and Regional Coordinators.

The lead regional partners are:

- Africa CSO Working Group on Sustainable Development (AWG)
- Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
- Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD)
- Mesa de Articulación (Latin America and Caribbean)
- Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
- SDG Watch Europe (Europe)

1.3 Review of specific results in 2016-2017

1. Civil society coalitions at the national level

National level work is central for the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The platform has delivered ongoing advocacy and monitoring work with national governments, which includes a focus on the Leave No One Behind principle.

Throughout the past two years there has been regular engagement with national partners to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are able to participate in the process of preparing and implementing National SDG implementation plans which deliver positive change where it's most needed. This has included 30 National Dialogues delivered with the Leave No One Behind partnership (with the support of the UK Government).

2. Key global moments for engagement and mobilisation, in particular the anniversary of the Goals

A4SD has been actively engaging ahead of and around each of the key global moments. In September 2016, A4SD hosted a high level reception on Leave No One Behind as well as a series of workshops.

In September 2017 this engagement grew further, as part of the broader campaign #Act4SDGs. This time A4SD worked in partnership with a strong network of global, regional and national civil society networks, to deliver a series of Global Days of Action which reached over 900 events in 116 countries.

3. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Held in July each year, this has provided an ongoing review point, with key Civil Society Reports on the countries in the Voluntary National Reviews, to hold governments accountable on their promises.

Action4SD has worked closely with national partners in over 35 countries in 2016 & 2017, to prepare joint submissions, develop joint advocacy and set out overarching messages for the UN and member states. In addition a series of workshops and high level side events have been hosted at the HLPF in New York 2016 & 2017, with key governments, UNDP, Unicef and other agencies.

4. Policy Coherence

A4SD has also hosted notable events at the UN climate conferences (COPs), held in November each year, to explore the links between delivery of the Climate Agreement alongside the SDGs, including in Paris, Marrakech and most recently in Bonn.

In particular, Action4SD has delivered a series of joint inputs on the need for greater policy coherence across sustainable development, climate commitments and human rights at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, working together with other civil society partners, the Fijian Permanent Representative (and COP President) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2. Aims for 2018-2020

Action for Sustainable Development was established in 2016 as a key platform for citizens and civil society to exchange good practice and take regular joint action on sustainable development. It exists to promote the collective vision of a more just and sustainable world, built on shared priorities reflecting the diverse needs of civil society, to ensure a society in which the voices of those who have been excluded can be heard by decision-makers.

We strengthen the links between civil society around the world interested in and working on sustainable development, providing support, strengthening capacity and leveraging resources to enable those, particularly from the global South and those most affected by poverty, climate change and social and environmental injustice, , such as those facing the impact of climate change in fragile environments to participate meaningfully.

We aim to bring citizens and civil society together to inspire and to commit to actions that empower all peoples, especially those who have been marginalised, and in order to collectively tackle the root causes of inequalities, injustice, human rights violations, poverty, environmental degradation and climate change. We share knowledge and build momentum for civil society organisations to **mobilize, monitor, advocate and act** collectively.

In order to deliver this vision, the platform is now setting out its strategic plan for the next 3 years, 2018-2020 inclusive. It is intended that over the coming years Action4SD will widen its position as the primary space for active citizens, community organisations and CSOs to come together to act collectively for the transformation to a more just and sustainable world.

This includes the following 3 overarching objectives:

- a) To provide an accessible online *space* to share information on engagement and delivery of the 2030 Agenda around the world.
- b) To support *advocacy* and public *participation* in the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels
- c) To share *innovative approaches*, insights and good practice between practitioners, experts and activists.

There is now a demand to set specific targets for each area, in a way that reflects realities on the ground, addresses imbalances across civil society and ensures joint efforts are targeted to the places where they are most urgently needed.

To deliver on this aspiration A4SD is focused on the following 4 aims:

1. *Participation*: Civil society groups from every region of the world are supported to influence policy decisions on sustainable development and carry out advocacy at national, regional and global levels
2. *Accountability*: Civil society organisations are able to contribute to and provide oversight of government reporting on progress on the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement, as well as deliver their own independent reporting
3. *Mobilisation*: Collective action to include at least 1million active citizens takes place on an annual basis to maintain the public spotlight on this shared agenda
4. *Innovation*: Good practice in innovation on ways that civil society and active citizens can deliver the agenda from the national to the global level will be shared, through regular forums and an online interactive map.

Action for Sustainable Development has agreed on a working method that enables the voices of the members to be heard directly through key activities. Following the principle of radical inclusivity, each working group has an autonomous programme of activity and regularly reviews its own work plan.

Action for Sustainable Development has four Working Groups:

1. Policy & Advocacy
2. Monitoring & Accountability
3. Public Mobilisation
4. Innovative Solutions

Objectives and Key Milestones

2.1 Policy & Advocacy:

In the Policy & Advocacy area, A4SD aims to work towards 3 key objectives:

1. Effective engagement in the HLPF
 - a) Reports on civil society engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews in key countries on an annual basis

Building on the successful reports on the Voluntary National Reviews in 2016 & 17, Action4SD will support National Coalitions to: review the process of civil society involvement; analyse the official National Voluntary Reports and engage with government.

OUTPUT: At least 10 VNR civil society reports are included on the website each year

b) Develop broader messages for the HLPFs: One pressing issue learnt from 2016 & 17 is the need to improve the process for civil society engagement in the HLPF itself; there is growing interest in setting out specific improvements to the HLPF in time for the Heads of Government meeting in September 2019.

OUTPUT: Key recommendations for HLPF reform are prepared by October 2018 and shared in the run-up to HLPF with Heads of State in 2019

c) Engagement at COP and other relevant global forums

A4SD will ensure that there is a regular opportunity for engagement in relevant meetings of other UN bodies, including climate change at COP, human rights at the Human Rights Council and Financing for Development; as well as wider civil society gatherings such as GPEDC and GPSDD.

OUTPUT: 3 side events at key events, such as COP and the UNHRC

d) Support to national and regional advocacy

A4SD will provide support to members in their advocacy with national governments, including access to good practice and key recommendations on national processes. In terms of regional support, this will take the form of regular workshops at the regional UN Economic Commissions and regional Sustainable Development forums.

OUTPUT: Toolkit is shared and workshops are held at all the regional forums

2.2 Monitoring & Accountability:

In the area of monitoring and accountability A4SD will focus on the following 3 key objectives:

a) Independent civil society reports on progress towards delivery of the agenda
Develop civil society reports in key countries put forward for VNR in each year, to analyse the progress of delivery of the agenda by independent evaluation. This will be done in partnership with other key networks.

OUTPUT: Joint annual reports on delivery of the agenda included on the website

b) Identify good practice in Citizen Generated Data for SDGs

In addition to the extensive programmatic data it produces, civil society is also at the forefront of new ways of collecting and using data. This includes citizen-generated data, which provides direct representations of the needs and interests of individuals.

OUTPUT: At least 5 key models of Citizen Generated Data are shared

c) Capacity development on monitoring

The Working Group aims to provide resources, produce tools, and convene events which help build both the technical and strategic capacity of civil society organisations to engage in different sustainable development monitoring and accountability efforts, from the local up to the international level.

OUTPUT: Tools and best practice for monitoring by citizens and civil society are shared

2.3 Public mobilisation:

Recognizing that this is a people's agenda, Action4SD aims to familiarize the public with sustainable development and the commitments made by governments, with the aim of promoting people-powered accountability and support for mobilisation at key tipping points in the domestic or international spheres.

OUTPUTS:

- a. Coordination of decentralised awareness raising at national level in at least 80 countries
- b. Social media actions around key moments to reach at least 1million participants
- c. One annual common global action in 80 plus countries at the anniversary of adoption of the SDGs on 25th September

2.4 Innovative Solutions:

A4SD is committed to showcase examples of how civil society is itself delivering on the sustainable development agenda, not just to highlight good practice and innovation, but also to hold ourselves accountable. We will share ideas and resources and train on and scale up alternative solutions, which are grounded in local needs and are sustainable.

The WG will focus on 2 main strands:

- a. Identify the most innovative approaches in different parts of the world and champion these national perspectives on an interactive website, which will allow users to identify and collaborate with partners on implementation activities related to specific goals and targets, as well as to foster partnerships to help them to widen their reach and share learning.
OUTPUT: Interactive map with at least 500 initiatives is shared
- b. Identify need, support and develop capacity strengthening activities, in close collaboration with the 'founding' global networks.
OUTPUT: 2 workshops and 2 webinars on specific areas of capacity strengthening

National Actions

To support this broad base of activities, national level engagement activity will be strengthened. This will be achieved by the provision of different resources such as templates, tools and financial support to national coalitions.

The website will continue to be enhanced to include specific details of each country, including: national civil society focal points; key campaigns; summary of who are the most marginalized communities; opportunities for engagement with government, official follow-up and review processes; as well as innovative solutions at national level.

2.5 Calendar of key moments and joint actions of A4SD

Date	Event	Plans for A4SD global joint actions
2018		
January-June 2018	Engagement at national level on VNR dialogue, as well as workshops at regional UN SD Forums	Civil society reports, Joint position to each government by national partners. Joint workshops at 5 regional UN commissions
March 2018	Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development	2 workshops and significant social media engagement
July 2018	High Level Political Forum	Presentation of reports. Joint side event with Swiss Government
September 2018	UN General Assembly, NY, Anniversary of Goals	Public mobilisation & social media to call for specific commitments from governments
November 2018	UN Annual Climate Change conference (COP24) Poland	Side event, with key recommendations on policy coherence- linking SDGs, climate & human rights
July 2018- March 2019	Identification of innovative solutions; sharing of good practice; and preparation of further capacity strengthening activity	4 webinars
2019		
January-June 2019	Engagement at national level on VNR dialogue, as well as workshops at regional UN SD Forums	Civil society reports, Joint position to each government by national partners. Joint workshops at 5 regional UN commissions. Recommendations on improvements to engagement with the HLPF.
March 2019	Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development	2 workshops & social media engagement
	Climate Vulnerable Forum/SIDS UN Summit (tbc)	
July 2019	High Level Political Forum	Presentation of reports. Joint side event with Swiss Government
September 2019	UN General Assembly, NY, Anniversary of Goals	Key recommendations to Heads of State & Government; Public mobilisation & social media to call for renewed commitment from governments
November 2019	UNFCCC COP 25	Side event, with key recommendations on policy coherence- linking SDGs, climate & human rights
Oct-December 2019	Updating innovative solutions and national best practice	2 webinars, key workshops with regional networks

2020		
January-June 2020	Engagement at national level on VNR dialogue, as well as workshops at regional UN SD Forums	Civil society reports, Joint position to each government by national partners. Joint workshops at 5 regional UN commissions. Recommendations on improvements to engagement with the HLPF.
March 2020	Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development	2 workshops & social media engagement
July 2020	High Level Political Forum	Presentation of reports. Joint side event with Swiss Government
September 2020	UN General Assembly, NY, Anniversary of Goals	Public mobilisation & social media-linking to 5 years of the Goals and climate targets expiring
November 2020	UN Annual Climate Change conference (COP26)	Side event, with key recommendations on policy coherence- linking SDGs, climate & human rights
Oct-December 2020	Updating innovative solutions and national best practice- how is civil society delivering?	2 webinars, key workshops with regional networks

