



STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP



THEMATIC SESSION: REVIEW OF SDG 6

PRESENTED BY

LINDA WITONG

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

SDG 6 is a basic human right. Without water there cannot be life. Yet we are facing a water crisis which is being described as one of the major global threats facing our planet today. Capetown is just the tip of the iceberg. The water crisis presents a kaleidoscope of challenges for every region in the world and is having a domino effect on life itself. But many reply- there is no problem here as ..we can turn on our faucet to get a drink of water. But 87% of the tap water the world drinks has plastic in it. Some may argue that 25% of the world's population feel safe in relying on groundwater systems for their water yet 1/3 of the world's largest groundwater systems are in distress. Governments should assign water, ground water ecosystems and ecosystems such as wetlands forests mountains and grasslands as both valued and protected areas. Yet water and the ecosystems which it depends on are being degraded, poisoned and depleted by pollution, mega/high-input irrigation agriculture and by beverage, mining, and energy industries that are demanding even greater access to increasingly scarce freshwater supplies. And can we depend on the weather to assist us in meeting the challenges that the water crisis has presented us with? Disasters caused by natural and hydro-meteorological hazards due to climate change have had a negative impact on water quality and availability. As primary caregivers, women and girls have also the most affected by water-related disasters. In addition, An estimated 3.6 billion people live in areas that are potentially water-scarce at least one month per year, and this population could increase to 4.8-5.7 billion by 2050 water shortages. And we have not waited for the future to see what havoc and chaos water shortages and contamination have produced. Water shortages and contamination have destabilized regions and states, forced internal displacement, put additional strain on weak infrastructure, and ultimately fostered protests and even uprisings. And if many still do not view this as a crisis? Here is a fact which was recently advanced by the High Level Panel On Water that we cannot ignore: More than two billion people are compelled to drink contaminated water, resulting in a child dying every minute of every hour of every day.[1] Around the world, we have seen policy failures contribute to unsustainable use, unjust distribution, and inequitable access to water to the detriment of human rights and the common good. Inadequate water management has obstructed economic development, poverty alleviation, food security, public health and safety, decent standards of living, and the protection of the natural environment. Further, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the burden of water collection, which increases their share of unpaid care work, one of the main obstacles to achieving women's rights and gender equality. We must recognize the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in ensuring human rights, gender equality, and peace. We call for a rights- based approach to SDG6 that prevents the commodification and privatization of water sources, ensures transparent, accountable, and fair distribution of services; increases domestic resources and aid for water, sanitation, and hygiene services to ensure equitable and affordable access; protects environmental ecosystems that secure water systems; and strengthens community-based water resource management.



STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP



THEMATIC SESSION:
REVIEW OF SDG11

PRESENTED BY

CHUTHATIP MANEEPONG, EAST
WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

To move forward toward sustainable development goals, not operating on business as usual, I would like to emphasize the need of urban innovation, not high cost or high technology of innovation but affordable and local responsive technology based on local wisdom and participation such as raindrop collection for urban water supply.

Due to the call for the quality of urban life style and connectivity, several government gives priority to develop large-scale infrastructure and green space and provides incentives for private sector's investment on real estate development. This directly forces the poor and middle-income families to leave their houses with little compensation and to have less economic opportunities outside of city center or pushes them to unsanitary and unsafe settlement in the inner city. Thus, I would like to call for better fair development models such as people public and private partnership development with affordable and local responsive technology but only public and private partnership development.

To achieve the target goals on linkages between urban and peri-urban areas, I would like to develop not only mutual collaboration but only mutual benefit relationship among local government agencies and communities for better connectivity and efficiency operation.

Below are priority recommendations:

A recent project in Chiang Rai preserves wetlands from urban construction encroachment to reduce flood risk. Landless farmers use the land to grow organic crops in the dry season and some floating crops in the wet season. The project is a great success because it delivers multiple benefits - livelihood for landless farmers, flood risk reduction, and healthy vegetables for the City.

Recently, Thailand has experienced success in formation of social enterprises, increasingly focusing on services. For example, informal cleaning women in Bangkok organized themselves as a social enterprise to empower themselves to improve their incomes, benefiting from the City's growing prosperity. CSR activities of a local real estate company catalyzed this activity.

Cases such as the above indicate that urban innovation works best when communities respond to problems in a bottom up, localized, multiple stakeholder fashion. Involvement of an outside party such as an NGO or CSR initiative, often makes a big difference.

In Southeast Asia, there is increased bottom-up urban innovation. The challenge is to learn from these innovations that are successful and upscale them.



STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP



THEMATIC SESSION: REVIEW OF SDG 12

PRESENTED BY

KERRY POSTLEWHITE

CRUELTY FREE INTERNATIONAL

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

We recognize that decoupling economic growth from resource use has been challenging. To keep driving GDP growth means using more of the resources we already don't have enough of like land and water; abusing other resources like labour and animals and potentially accelerating extinction, pollution, climate change, inequality and conflict.

We believe that changing consumption and production patterns requires systemic societal and cultural change, moving from a profit-centred and monetary growth economy to one that is people, planet and animal-centred. GDP growth is not a good measure of the wellbeing of people, the environment and animals.

But we truly think that together we really can move closer to SCP by involving society in its totality in our efforts - government in its coordinating role, the private sector, civil society, educators and the media in real collaboration.

We offer our expertise and experience from our work on the ground in different country contexts to work with governments to conduct a thorough review of food and farming systems and supply chains for SCP.

We recognise that this is not always straightforward for governments, but we would urge them to move policy focus and financial and fiscal support for socially and environmentally harmful production to incentives for more sustainable alternatives. Often, doing this requires a narrative that ordinary people can buy into. Education and information for citizen-consumers is critical.

Clearly, the private sector has a pivotal role to play in goal 12, and we have heard some positive examples of this and very much welcome the new One Plan for One Planet initiative. Where it is possible to get closer to SCP by way of voluntary agreements, we would applaud that. We would also say, however, that there remains an important place for accountability and due diligence mechanisms for transnational corporations that binds them to strong environmental and social standards throughout their value chains, including a binding UN Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights and the Global Pact for the Environment.

Every one of us here has a part to play too. We are all consumers. Let us all leave today inspired to also be the change that we are advocating here today.



STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP



THEMATIC SESSION: REVIEW OF SDG15

PRESENTED BY

JESSICA BRIDGERS

WORLD ANIMAL NET

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic accounting of the value of nature and its ecosystems, and what role can governments play?

We are glad to see the question of how the SDG15 narrative might be changed to more holistically account for the value of nature and its ecosystems. As a number of SDG 15's targets are set for the year 2020 in coherence with the Aichi Biodiversity targets, we call upon governments to respect these deadlines and to agree new approaches and binding actions within CBD to halt biodiversity decline and make concrete progress in ecosystem restoration. A business-as-usual approach to our environmental crises is failing our planet and the animals and people who depend on it. Now is the time to look at the next decade with fresh eyes and new ideas. From the perspective of the NGO Major Group:

- Agricultural policies must shift towards agroecological solutions and plant-based diets, which use land, soil and water more sustainably.
- Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women must be protected against marginalization from market-based conservation mechanisms.
- We must close the legal trades in wildlife – such as trophy hunting, wildlife farming, and auctions of confiscated stockpiles – which make illegal trade impossible to distinguish and enforce.
- Certification schemes and public education campaigns are crucial to prevent perverse environmental, social and animal welfare impacts and to instill nature-centric values.
- We must strengthen the interlinkages across existing environmental conventions
- Programs encouraging consumptive use of nature, without balancing use against actual human need, must be reevaluated, especially the application of the “sustainable use” concept to sentient, living animals.

With the need for fresh perspectives and new approaches, how can we ensure that the voices of civil society can vibrantly participate in shaping the post-2020 SDG15 narrative?



STATEMENT DELIVERED
AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP



THEMATIC SESSION: REVIEW OF SDG17

PRESENTED BY

OLI HENMAN, ACTION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

We face a world of growing inequality in which the 8 richest men in the world own half of all global wealth. There is therefore a growing need to ensure real support for public services if we are serious about supporting those furthest behind first. It is essential to see real investment in health, education and social care infrastructure so that human development is fully supported.

How can we fulfil the aspirations of the goals to leave no one behind?

It is crucial to ensure adequate financing, this includes:

- Coordination on tax, we want to see international tax cooperation, a long overdue financial transaction tax, and crucially a clampdown on tax avoidance and illicit financial flows
- We also call for fulfilment of the 0.7% commitment to ODA from all donor governments
- We would furthermore call for proper democratic control over development banks and multilateral funding bodies, including the World Bank but also bodies supported by new entrants such as the Chinese and other G20 countries
- Finally we call for a change in the priorities and conditionalities attached to multilateral support to ensure that financing truly supports a move towards decreasing inequality and not simply propping up large infrastructure projects riddled with corrupt practices to the benefit of wealthy investors.

It is also essential to support broader partnership working, this includes:

- Enabling proper collaboration at country level, civil society organisations can provide a trusted partner and are best placed to identify the needs of key communities
- Many civil society organisations are able to deliver critical services and fulfil the requirements of the most vulnerable people across the world.
- It is essential to guarantee the space for a supportive operating environment for civil society, this includes enabling registration and simplified reporting procedures for community organisations
- In terms of building better partnerships, we call for a dedicated CSO SDG Fund to directly support grass-roots organisations to expand their capabilities to deliver on behalf of the communities they serve, ideally this should provide small scale targeted grants to community organisations so that they truly "Leave No One Behind".



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF NGO MAJOR GROUP

THEMATIC SESSION: BUILDING RESILIENCE

PRESENTED BY

ANN VAUGHAN, MERCY CORPS

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

Resilience is not a choice, it is an imperative. Climate change is increasing the number of communities at risk of disasters. The impacts of climate change increase the risk of violent conflict. We must proactively identify and mitigate conflict risks associated with climate change, as conflict impedes efforts to reach the SDGs.

Building resilience to conflict requires better governance, inclusive policies, and the urgent action of this body to find diplomatic solutions to the conflicts displacing record numbers of people and eroding communities' resilience. Building Resilience also requires a new way of thinking. Wealthy countries still need to meet their 7% ODA contributions. But it's not just the quantity of money, it's also the quality. We appreciate Mr Smith's points about breaking down silos and would appreciate hearing other examples of effective donor programming that can be replicated. We've also found that multi-year, flexible funding that enables programs to pursue long-term development goals and be responsive to emergency needs are critical and would urge more countries to adopt them.

Additional investments are also needed to build resilience in:

1. areas in recurrent crises;
2. programs that target climate drivers of conflict.
3. inclusive programs that promote a culture of peace; social cohesion; empowerment; transparency; social equity; justice reform; and education, particularly for girls and youth; as well as civil society participation in decision-making processes.

We've found the following policies effective at building resilience, and address the interconnected nature of SDGs and urge governments to develop:

- Inclusive Early Warning Systems
- Inclusive social safety nets ; access to financial services
- Policies and laws that promote inclusive management of natural resources; esp in conflict settings where they can be an opportunity to galvanize collective action and build cooperation between divided communities
- Access to basic climate information, especially for the most vulnerable. Many speakers have already referenced the importance of climate data and it'd be helpful to hear from the panel how to move past rhetoric and actually make climate data more available, especially for the most vulnerable.

Lastly, Civil Society participation is critical for building resilience and reaching the SDGs. We urge you to strengthening the institutional mechanisms for engagement with civil society to ensure accountability, transparency, and inclusivity to enable all voices be heard, leaving no one behind.



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF NGO MAJOR GROUP

THEMATIC SESSION: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

PRESENTED BY

KANCHAN AMATYA, SUSTAINABLE
FISH FARMING INITIATIVE (SFFI) &
WOMEN THRIVE ALLIANCE (WTA),

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

Today, as we sit here at the United Nations, more than 68 million people around the world are displaced from their homes to escape violence, persecution and poverty. Rohingya children are living in overcrowded camps and informal settlements in 'inhuman' conditions. World leaders and member states, the deaths of thousands of civilians fleeing wars in the Middle East and Africa can no longer be neglected.

Therefore, we urge the member states to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all - leaving no one behind, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, or other status. No one becomes a refugee by choice. No one should have to die crossing a border.

Second, we would like to call the attention of governments and other stakeholders in the alarming and increasing rates of violations against women, human rights, and indigenous frontline defenders from the civil society. We risk imprisonment, harassment, torture and even death to defend our inherent rights. How many others will have to die for this war against human rights defenders to end?

We, hereby, condemn the well resourced and coordinated strategy of defamation, criminalisation and violence deployed to intimidate, marginalise and silence human rights defenders and urge member states to provide political space nationally, regionally, and globally for Indigenous Peoples and civil society to operate and to express our views openly and publicly without fear of reprisals.

Finally, In order to leave no one behind, the NGO Major Group calls for a new development paradigm that prioritizes the flourishing of humans, nature, and animals. We call for a national and global review process that is rights based, people centered, planet sensitive, evidence based, and participatory.

Through a holistic, non-silo approach, we call the member states and all relevant stakeholders to uphold the basic human rights for all:

The right to live in peace.

The right to be treated with dignity.

The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. The right to equality of opportunity.



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF NGO MAJOR GROUP

THEMATIC SESSION: SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

PRESENTED BY

EMELE DUITUTURGA

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

Transforming our world and leaving no one behind are the hallmark promises of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Three years on, problems still persist compounded by climate change in SIDS. The business-as-usual policy and technical approaches fail to address structural and power imbalances, persistent inequalities and grave injustices.

Therefore, Pacific civil society and the NGO Major Group call for a new paradigm that places people front and centre of development and respects planetary boundaries.

Recognising the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in ensuring human rights, gender equality and peace, we call for a rights-based approach and to SDG6 that prevents the commodification and privatisation of water sources and that ensures transparent, accountable, and fair distribution of services; increases domestic resources and aid for water, sanitation, and hygiene services to ensure equitable and affordable access; protects environmental ecosystems that secures water systems; and strengthens community-based water resource management.

We are concerned about ongoing degradation of our planet's ecosystem, we call for the involvement of civil society, indigenous peoples, women, youth and local communities in coordinated action to achieve SDG15, inline with biodiversity-related intergovernmental frameworks and targets.

We encourage States to implement policies and effective enforcement systems to hold extractive and polluting industries accountable, prevent further deterioration, conserve and protect biodiversity, and work towards restoration of past damages.

We call for increased political will and action to achieve SDG12, particularly through regulation of corporate activity and waste, consumer education, and environmental stewardship.

We stress that Governments have a fundamental role in regulating the private sector and ensuring all-of-society action towards changing consumption and production patterns, moving from an excessive focus on profit and growth to a planet-and people-centred economy.

Madame Moderator, my question to the panelists: is resilience and sustainability achievable with the dominant prevailing neoliberal capitalism that is prevalent in driving SIDS economies?



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF NGO MAJOR GROUP

**THEMATIC SESSION:
TRANSFORMATION
TOWARD SUSTAINABLE
AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES**

PRESENTED BY

KATHRYN ADAMS, LIDE FOUNDATION

**FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

**NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG**

All of us here have a desire to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and yet we stall. We gather people together in forums of communication and share ideas that at the close of sessions somehow do not make it out of those session walls. Funding waits for monitoring and evaluation. Projects wait for funding. Monitoring and evaluation waits for capacity to be raised. And somewhere in the process of going from plan to action – from goal to achievement, momentum is lost. At the core of this delay is the challenge of simply working together – collaborating, coordinating, communicating.

In each and every Goal under review this year, our members called for inclusion of all stakeholders in all stages of planning, policy making, implementation and accountability. In each goal under review we also saw the need to work across sectors in order to achieve what seems to be a one sector issue. None of these issues fit neatly into one finite box. They spill out and over. Water is affected by the health of our terrestrial lands which is affected by the choices we make in energy resources and production and consumption, which affect the safety and wellbeing of those in of our urban environments. And all of these impact and are impacted by the decisions we make and the extent to which we partner and collaborate at the policy and action planning levels.

So how do we break through the stall and move toward actions? We must work collaboratively and act holistically. And that means reaching across sectors and outside the boxes of each goal not just to solve our own problems but also to address the deeper issues that result in delays.

We must also change the processes of collaboration: rather than just speaking for all of society, we must listen to society. Rather than cutting off funding to young grassroots organization who do not know how to submit budgets and to analyze outcomes, we must raise their capacity to do these things on their own. Instead of turning human rights into a politically charged and forbidden word, we must place it at the heart of our actions. We must be given a place to speak and we must make space for listening in true dialogue in order to find solutions together. This is how we build resiliency that will sustain.

At the close of this HLPF, let us open the doors to action.



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT #HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF NGO MAJOR GROUP

SESSION: ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE

PRESENTED BY

SAVIO CARVALHO, WATERAID

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

The world is not on track to reach the 2030 Agenda. As the world steadily becomes a more unequal place, a sense of urgency around achieving this Agenda is lacking, and the opportunity to imbue the process with meaningful accountability at all levels is quickly dissipating.

For this Agenda to be truly transformative, immediate action is required to reorient and restructure global systems towards equity, human rights and justice.

We congratulate the 191 member states who voted in support of the ministerial declaration. However, the HLPF proceedings reveal insufficient leadership and a lack of commitment. We now urge you to remain united, ambitious and focused in delivery of the 2030 Agenda; and towards the true realization of the principle of 'leave no one behind'.

We are concerned that unlike the Human Rights Council, the HLPF provides no mandate for parallel or 'shadow reports' on country-level implementation, and call for this to be taken into consideration during the 2019 review of the HLPF modalities.

We welcome the initiative to pre-approve one side event for each constituency of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders, and we hope this practice will continue.

Nonetheless, we regret to observe that the overall space for civil society at the HLPF is shrinking. This year, only around 20% of the official slots for side events were granted to civil society, whereas one full day was dedicated to a closed business forum.

Likewise, opportunities for the MGoS to intervene in the official sessions have decreased, critically affecting interaction during the VNR presentations: 2 minutes is clearly not enough to represent all MGoS in one statement.

We need the HLPF to lead by example by creating the conditions for meaningful and constructive dialogue, being a true platform for learning and accountability.

We are looking forward to the 2019 HLPF, at heads of state level and the beginning of the review of its modalities. However, we express our serious concerns that this platform is proving insufficient against both the expectations of its role in monitoring and review, and the crises of the larger global structures in which the HLPF attempts to intervene.

We rededicate ourselves to ensuring that justice speaks louder than the voices of entrenched power; and that our energy and commitment will counteract the forces of complacency that have set into the multilateral system.

We call on governments to use the space of the HLPF to meaningfully advance the 2030 Agenda through leadership and political guidance, honest acknowledgments of challenges, and concrete indications that political, economic, social, and environmental paradigms will shift towards human rights and dignity for all.



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT
#HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP

THEMATIC SESSION:
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION

PRESENTED BY

SARAH BAIRD, LET THERE BE
LIGHT INTERNATIONAL

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

Noting the “interlinked and indivisible” nature of the 2030 Agenda, the NGO Major Group is calling for a holistic, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach to SDG implementation and asks that civil society be included as key players in the prioritization of goals, the identification of creative interventions, and the collection of data and planning for future programming.

The directive to “Leave No One Behind” is especially topical when we are talking about the potential for Science, Technology, and Innovation to advance the SDGs.

It is clear that when science, technology, and innovation are prioritized, a virtuous cycle between policy and practice can be created. Science, technology, and innovation, when planned well, can inform policy and support people-centered programming. And in turn, measurable impacts across the SDGs can be leveraged to further support policy.

In many cases, for instance, many health-related targets, the science and technology are available but the resources to access them are not. So, just as we must talk about decoupling energy from CO₂, so too must science, technology and innovation be decoupled from monetized pay-to-play models. Technology transfers, open-source technology, and accessible training programs are vital to the inclusive vision of the SDGs.

The NGO Major Group asserts that data, indicators, and measurements of development should go “beyond GDP” and include holistic and disaggregated indicators that accurately measure well-being for all and that account for quality of life, social inclusion and equity within planetary boundaries.

We call on the United Nations and its Member States to increase the engagement of civil society, by soliciting more extensive inputs from Major Groups and other Stakeholders. And we are requesting that as we use science, technology, and innovation to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we remember our commitment to “Leave No One Behind.”



STATEMENT DELIVERED AT
#HLPF2018 ON BEHALF OF
NGO MAJOR GROUP

SESSION:
ECOSOC DIALOGUE WITH
FINANCIAL AND TRADE
INSTITUTIONS

PRESENTED BY
KATIE TOBIN, WATERAID

FOLLOW NGO MAJOR GROUP
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @NGOMAJORGROUP

FACEBOOK: NGO MAJOR GROUP

INSTAGRAM: NGOMAJORGROUP

NOT YET A MEMBER OF NGO MG?
SIGN UP HERE: NGOMG.ORG

For the 2030 Agenda to be truly transformative, urgent action is required to reorient and restructure global systems towards equity and justice. This includes the meaningful and active participation of civil society and other stakeholders at all stages of the implementation of the SDGs, so as the NGO Major Group, we thank H.E. Marie Chatardova, President of ECOSOC, for the opportunity to share our views today.

It is essential to firmly locate the SDGs - and the efforts to support their achievement by IFIs and UN agencies - within the human rights framework, reaffirming the centrality of the State as duty-bearer of human rights. Guidance and financing from the IFIs must ensure the policy space required for governments to enact regulation, enforcement, and fiscal measures to advance their democratically-owned and rights-based development agendas.

As a member of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders actively engaging in UN processes including the HLPF, I observe with concern many layers of disconnect between what is discussed in these halls and what is going on in the larger world. This includes the apparent lack of relevance between the discussions of member states here in the ECOSOC chamber and in bilateral summits across the globe; between military spending and budgetary allocation for sustainable development; between the obvious need for universal social protection floors and the policy dictates of the IMF; and the urgent need for concrete commitments and financing to address poverty and rising inequality and the deliberations here.

Implementation of the SDGs can only advance if the systemic, structural obstacles that impede the socioeconomic transformation of developing countries are addressed. It is critical that the center of gravity of economic, financial, trade, and monetary decisions be shifted away from the international financial institutions toward the United Nations, and that the UN is enabled to respond to the urgent call for democratization of global economic governance and financial systems.

We are deeply concerned with IFIs insistence on promoting blended finance and public private partnerships, as these redirect scarce public resources towards the private sector and leave the public sector to assume the risk. Private finance can only complement, not replace, national and international public resources; standards, benchmarks and accountability mechanisms for private sector involvement are crucial. We urge the IMF to stop pushing 'fiscal consolidation' on countries, as austerity policies and regressive taxation seriously impede countries' ability to finance the implementation of the SDGs.

We demand the overdue introduction of a financial transactions tax and the establishment of an intergovernmental tax body for international tax cooperation at UN level. It is critical that the center of gravity of economic, financial, trade, and monetary decisions be shifted away from the IFIs toward the UN, so we therefore echo the urgent call for democratization of global economic governance. Contrary to what one powerful government insisted, voting against the ministerial declaration, trade must be organized in multilateral fora along principles that support the rights-based implementation of the SDGs, ensuring policy space for environmental and social regulation at national level, towards socio-economic transformation.

Finally, we welcome the IMF's new stated commitment to greater gender and economic equality - but urge them that this won't be achieved through narrowly targeted 'empowerment' interventions combined with austerity; but rather requires more holistically looking at transforming macroeconomic policies to promote equality (as their own Research Department has acknowledged). We call on IFIs, MDBs and UN agencies to put more emphasis on living wages, labor rights and decent work as key drivers of sustainable people-centred development.

The NGO Major Group, as an active member of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism, expresses our serious concerns that the platforms of the HLPF and the Economic and Social Council are proving insufficient against both the expectations of their role in monitoring SDGs implementation and the crises of the larger global structures in which they attempt to intervene. We rededicate ourselves to ensuring the clarion call of justice is louder than the voices of entrenched power; and that our energy and commitment will counteract the forces of complacency that have so ensnared the multilateral system. We call on IFIs to support governments in using the space of the HLPF to meaningfully advance the political aspirations of the 2030 Agenda through leadership and political guidance, honest acknowledgments of challenges faced, and concrete indications that political, local, economic, social, and environmental paradigms will shift towards human rights and dignity for all.