



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Side events – 2021 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

Given the ongoing situation linked to COVID-19, it has been decided that all Side-events on the margins of the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held virtually.

We invite interested parties (member states, UN System organizations and NGOs/IGOs in consultative status with the UN) to submit their applications to organize a side event during the 2021 HLPF following the guidelines and criteria below.

Application process will open 5 April 2021 and close on 31 May 2021.

Side events will be organized on the margins of the 2021 HLPF (under the auspices of ECOSOC) and sponsored by Member States, the UN system and other Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

These Side events of the HLPF- held outside the official programme - provide great opportunities to discuss the theme and SDGs under review at the HLPF, deepen the discussion on Voluntary National Reviews, identify new and emerging issues, listen to all voices, and help spread greater awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

### Criteria for side events

Countries, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and UN entities, together with **21** confirmed slots for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS), and other organizations with UN accreditation can be main organizers for the side events.

In view of the large number of requests anticipated and taking into consideration the very limited time allocated for the Side Events, requests should be limited to **ONE** per entity.

- In case countries, IGOs, UN entities and other organizations submit requests to organize more than one event they will be asked to consolidate their events. Regrettably, more than one event per entity cannot be accommodated.
- The side events should be open to all participants. Organizers of closed events or by invitation only events aiming for an exclusive audience are kindly advised to make alternate arrangements outside of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- Proposed side events should be closely related to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and should have as a main focus the theme for the

2021 meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC *"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"* as well as SDGs that will be discussed: 1,2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

- Priority will be given to events that show clear interlinkages between the SDGs and/or the theme of 2021 HLPF as well as events related to VNRs.
- Panels held at side events should ensure geographic and gender balance and are a mix of countries and other actors.
- A major group organising an event represents a network of partners.
- In the case of events proposed by one of the presenting countries, there is an explicit link to your VNR.

Overall, events will be reviewed and selected so that the overall programme of side events allows to give attention to the theme under review and is balanced in terms of geography and thematic focus. A group in the HLPF Secretariat will review the applications and select the side events based on those criteria.

#### **Process:**

The proposal should provide a detailed description of the side event, including its thematic focus, speakers/presenters and its potential contribution to the HLPF. It should also clearly indicate the main organizer of the event and their contacts.

All non-state and non-UN actors managed by the MGoS coordinating mechanism and steering group can organize side events. These entities should go to the following link to see if you are eligible: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

The full schedule of approved side events will be posted as part of the 2021 HLPF programme under the auspices of ECOSOC at the website <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#programme>

The Secretariat will not produce fliers, distribute notices, or run other publicity efforts for side events. Publicizing a side event is the responsibility of its organizers.

Official interpretation services are not available for side events.

All queries related to side events should be addressed to <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>

**The deadline for application is 31 May 2021. The HLPF Secretariat will review all submissions after the deadline and organizers will receive information about their side events by mid-June 2021.**