

MAJOR GROUPS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Statement ECOSOC and HLPF Review Informals 15 February 2024

Excellencies, Co-Facilitators,

Thank you for this opportunity to address you on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism, a group of 21 diverse stakeholder constituencies that are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. We strongly emphasize the critical importance of stakeholder engagement and participation in ECOSOC related activities, which contribute to better informed decision-making and greater development outcomes.

The 2nd half of the 2030 Agenda is here. We have the opportunity to increase multi-stakeholder participation and inclusion while implementing the needed substantive and procedural changes to strengthen the HLPF. We urge Member States to be more ambitious than ever to ensure effective impact assessment and delivery of the SDGs.

The Summit of the Future (SOTF) has galvanized attention to the importance of the 2030 Agenda, adding in new dimensions like the Global Digital Compact. However, as can be seen in the case of the conduct of Summits, they lack comprehensive outcome processes for follow-up and accountability. This could be integrated into the work of the HLPF, or the General Assembly through an appropriate resolution. The outcomes of the SOTF can also galvanize strong stakeholder involvement, in particular, in areas such as implementation, monitoring and accountability and also assist post 2030 in bridging from the 2030 Agenda to what follows.

In terms of our overall ECOSOC review recommendations:

We believe that ECOSOC provides a valuable channel for dialogue with civil society on a range of pressing issues and we call for additional support to enable those communities systematically left behind to join the discussions.

This requires investment in the UN system to ensure that participation can be supported both in terms of direct support for travel but also for greater use of online engagement to bring diverse perspectives on key issues.

We believe that stakeholders should be fully engaged in each point of the ECOSOC calendar, including greater online participation such as during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment.



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We call for a better integrated annual cycle, including clear policy guidance on the implementation of:

(a) Ministerial Declaration

(b) lessons learned from VNRs. On this, it is important that there is a focus on the poorest and on marginalized populations. There should also be a recognition and utilization of citizen generated data to complement official statistics to measure progress especially for marginalized groups.

These recommendations must be linked more directly to implementation by each Member State so that the impact of new policies can be measured.

We also call for a stronger focus on the SG report to ECOSOC on lessons learned from VNRs with recommendations for follow-up by countries, segments and forums of ECOSOC.

In terms of HLPF in particular:

We call for Strengthened peer learning and sharing of best practices and experiences relating to implementation of 2030 Agenda, on a voluntary basis, building on regional forums, VNRs and expert and other preparatory meetings.

The HLPF should adopt a transformative approach, avoiding 'business as usual,' and address the root causes of challenges, structural problems and systemic inequalities hindering SDG progress

We strongly endorse the participation of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders as established in the 2030 Agenda and highlight that the agenda will only be met if there is a 'whole of society' approach.

Governments should not act in isolation but rather work in partnership with community groups, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, youth, older persons, local volunteers, community groups, LGBTI, communities discriminated on the basis of work and descent, local authorities, businesses, trade unions, groups deprived of education, and many other stakeholders.

Many of our organisations provide the practical expertise to deliver the SDGs, the knowledge of local needs and enable finance to reach frontline communities, we must not be left behind. It is only by working in partnership with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders and local communities that there will be any chance of reaching those furthest behind first!We propose that the VNRs should include specific review of progress since the previous presentation. Member states should be encouraged to demonstrate how policy changes have led to practical outcomes in each of the goals and targets. On VNR reports, it's not enough that Indigenous Peoples and marginalized populations are just mentioned in the Leaving No One Behind sections of some VNR reports. We strongly recommend that states adopt mechanisms to be



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able to generate data on ethnicity, among other issues, and report on specific interventions done in relation to the realization of the rights of vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded groups. Safe spaces for engagement in the SDG processes at the national and global level needs to be ensured. There should be zero tolerance for reprisals against civil society representatives and Indigenous Peoples speaking in relevant SDG processes on realities on the ground.

Finally, in light of the SDG Summit in September 2023, we call for a clear commitment to financing the 2030 Agenda with a strong focus on delivering a specific fund to support those communities who are most often left behind in direct partnership with them. There is also a need to strengthen follow up and accountability.