



Inputs to the Elements Paper on the Review of ECOSOC and the HLPF

March 2023

Our inputs are focused on strengthening the HLPF.

As we have stated before, ECOSOC and the HLPF should offer a substantive space for policy dialogue amongst all social groups and constituencies, within a firm rights-based framework. This implies that all concerned parties have the possibility - and time - to express their views openly and honestly, provide constructive feedback and respond in a meaningful and productive way.

We strongly endorse the participation of all 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 Major Groups & Other Stakeholders. The role of civil society within the HLPF must be recognised and safeguarded in the Resolution.

We welcome the language on strengthening preparation and participation of the VNRs, in particular:

- Encourage VNR countries to engage in an interactive participatory process at the country level that has transparency, recognizes the role of civil society, and creates space for their contribution to identifying policy priorities.
- Encourage the involvement of relevant stakeholders in a whole of society approach, and include stakeholders in deliberations at the national, regional and global levels.

We also welcome the language on strengthening the quality of the VNRs, including:

- Promote more interactive VNR presentations at the HLPF, with Member States and stakeholders, to strengthen peer learning and the sharing of good practices as fundamental principles of the reviews.
- Encourage Member States to report on progress in collecting disaggregated data, as agreed in the 2030 Agenda, including through a greater focus on leaving no one behind and on the most vulnerable.

We would also set out some additional broad recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the global HLPF process:

1. Establish an annual 'commitment tracker' whereby Member States include progress on commitments made as part of their VNRs or at the 2023 SDG Summit.
2. Ensure dedicated financing for delivery of the 2030 Agenda with a strong focus on a specific fund to support those communities who are most often left behind.
3. A space should be created at the HLPF for the presentation of Voluntary Stakeholder Reviews, in a similar way to the space created for Voluntary Local Reviews to ensure that independent assessments of progress are presented alongside the official reports.

Finally, we have specific country level recommendations for stronger VNRs:

1. Member States are encouraged to seek inputs from local civil society organisations (CSOs) and community organisations to ensure a comprehensive and balanced assessment of progress towards the SDGs. CSOs can offer valuable insights, data, and case studies that reflect the realities on the ground and highlight areas for improvement.
2. Member states are encouraged to report on progress in collecting disaggregated data on various groups agreed in the 2030 Agenda. The UN development system could support Member States in identifying, mapping and collecting quality, disaggregated data on these groups to leave no one behind. Further, member states should incorporate a LNOB lens as a cross-cutting issue when evaluating goal by goal progress in their VNRs.
3. Member states are encouraged to report on efforts to reach agreed groups in VNRs, even where data is lacking.
4. Member States are encouraged to report on national SDG monitoring mechanisms as well as meaningful participation of stakeholders, particularly those that are the most left behind.