

2018 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

MGOS SIDE EVENT

(Co-sponsored by UN-DESA/OISC)

“STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE HLPF AND ITS REVIEW IN 2019”

9 July 2018

Time: 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 4

PROGRAMME

1.15 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

CO-MODERATORS:

Mr. Jeffery Huffines (CIVICUS) Welcome remarks, introductions, agenda.

Ms. Marianne Beisheim (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Key challenges will be discussed and recommendations will be made for more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in terms of stakeholder engagement in the HLPF and the preparatory processes. The discussions will focus primarily on stakeholder engagement – at the national, regional and global levels, in the context of GA resolution 67/290. There will be discussions on the HLPF processes and other intergovernmental processes– what does not work, whether there are glaring omissions, what can be improved. Taking into account the recommendations for HLPF reform made by MGoS in 2017, recommendations from this side event will form the basis for further discussions on how we can contribute to the General Assembly review of the HLPF, in accordance with its resolution 70/299.

1:20 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. Segment 1: MGoS participation in the HLPF

Panelists will discuss general processes and procedures for MGoS participation in the HLPF (MGoS Coordination Mechanism), including review of stakeholder participation practices in ECOSOC (review of resolution 68/1 on ECOSOC reform), UN Development System (UNDS reform), and other frameworks/processes (e.g. Financing for Development CSO Group), Sendai Framework, etc).

1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. 2 Panelists (5 minutes each)

1. How can stakeholder engagement be more effective in the national, regional and global processes at the UN that lead up to the HLPF ?
2. What political messages should stakeholders be promoting – should the HLPF Coordination Mechanism have a collective voice, at the HLPF?

3. How can the HLPF be more action-oriented; how to strengthen its accountability and its linkage with different intergovernmental processes?

1:30 p.m. – 1.40 p.m. Interventions from MGOS

1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Segment 2: Thematic reviews and VNRs

- (a) **Thematic reviews:** The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/299 decided that the HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, shall discuss a set of Goals at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all Goals over the course of a four-year cycle, including means of implementation with respect to Goal 17, reviewed annually. The General Assembly also decided the ECOSOC shall ensure the alignment of its calendar, and annual main themes with the corresponding annual themes of the HLPF under the auspices of the Council, to foster coherence. The HLPF thematic reviews should also be informed by cross-reference to VNRs and to how stakeholder engagement in national implementation is happening in real terms on the ground.
- (b) **VNRs:** The Agenda 2030 encourages nations in paragraph 79 to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities.” Therefore, in principle, Member States have agreed that stakeholder engagement that leaves no one behind in the review processes at both global and national levels is essential if the SDGs are to be achieved.

Moreover, a better understanding of the difference between reporting and reviewing is essential. So far, VNRs presented at the HLPF are “reports” even though they are labelled as reviews. Yet reporting and reviewing are different activities, both in content and process. The challenge for future HLPFs is to build a bridge between national implementation and reporting on the one side and the thematic reviews and VNRs on the other.

1:40 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. 2 Panelists (5 minutes each)

1. How effective are the thematic reviews, as discussed at the roundtables, in terms of contributing to political direction, guidance and recommendations from the HLPF
2. How effective is stakeholder engagement in implementation of the SDGs and preparation of VNRs?
3. How useful are VNRs for determining who is left behind, for peer learning, for arriving at next steps?
4. How effective is the programme format of HLPF for meaningful discussions and recommendations of the thematic reviews that includes reference to the VNRs and national implementation on the ground? How can it be improved?

1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Interventions from MGOS

2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Segment 3: Review of GA Resolution 67/290: Interlinkages, coherence, accountability and lessons learned from the first cycle of the HLPF.

The HLPF was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/290 in December 2013. The General Assembly, in resolution 70/299, also addressed the work and organization of the HLPF, the VNRs, regional implementation, role of MGoS, the SG annual progress report, the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report, coherence with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, and enhancement of the DESA.

In order to benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum, the General Assembly, at its 74th session (2019-2020 period) will review the work and organization of the HLPF. The MGoS will have the opportunity to participate in that review. The MGoS-HLPF-Coordination Mechanism's Steering Group has already been actively engaged in discussions, with Member States, the President of ECOSOC, and the DESA about some of the concerns expressed by stakeholders and have provided some recommendations to ensure that the HLPF complies with its mandate. The HLPF review will give all stakeholders the opportunity to revisit the modalities of participation, and the relationship of the HLPF as a hybrid model to the GA and ECOSOC, including the UN Development System.

2: 00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. 2 Panelists (5 minutes each)

1. What are the key lessons learned about stakeholder engagement in all the processes linked to the HLPF?
2. Has the HLPF been successful in implementing its mandate?
3. What changes do we want to propose?

2: 10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Interventions from MGOS

2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. WRAP UP BY CO-MODERATORS

Key recommendations; next steps

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION:

MGoS priority recommendations, March 2017
Report of MGOS Strategy Meeting, April 2018
Report of Colombia meeting, March 2017
General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 70/299