

**MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM, 2018**

**Side event to discuss
MGOS Engagement in the HLPF
and Review of General Assembly resolution 67/290
Monday, 9 July, 2018, 13:15 - 14:30
Conference Room 4, UNHQ**

Concept Note

A. BACKGROUND

1. General Assembly Resolution 67/290

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/290 in December 2013. The General Assembly decided that the HLPF would provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

The General Assembly stressed the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the discussions, and in this regard decided that the forum shall be open to the major groups and other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic Council decision 1993/215 and Council resolution 1996/31, which shall be applicable to the forum (para. 14).

The General Assembly also decided (para. 15) that while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed:

- (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
- (c) To intervene in official meetings;
- (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- (e) To make recommendations;
- (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.

And in para.16, the General Assembly encouraged the major groups identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development, to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization.

2. Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

It is clear that the General Assembly envisaged an active participatory role for major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the HLPF, as well as at the national and regional levels with respect to sustainable development.

In response to resolution 67/290, the MGOS-HLPF-Coordination Mechanism was established to ensure broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF. A Steering Group was also established by the organizing partners of the nine major groups and focal points of the other stakeholders, or their designated representatives, to be responsible for facilitating the participation of MGOS at HLPF and related activities.

3. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level (General Assembly resolution 70/299)

The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/1 in 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and subsequently, in its resolution 70/299, decided the themes and goals for 2017, 2018 and 2019. The General Assembly, in resolution 70/299 also addressed the work and organization of the HLPF, voluntary national reviews, regional implementation, role of major groups and other stakeholders, the annual progress report, the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report, coherence with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, enhancement of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and it decided to review progress in implementing resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF at its seventh-fourth session, in order to benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum, as well as from other processes under the General Assembly and ECOSOC related to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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, the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Division for Sustainable Development Goals and the Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development) about some of the concerns expressed by stakeholders and have provided some recommendations to ensure that the HLPF complies with its mandate more effectively. Civil society and NGOs, as articulated in the 2030 Agenda, play a vital role in implementing the SDGs in order to leave no one behind.

B. PURPOSE OF THE SIDE EVENT

The **purpose** of the side-event is to:

1. Review MGOS engagement in the HLPF, in terms of substantive and procedural questions
2. Discuss issues to be raised for the review of the work and organization of the HLPF by the General Assembly at its 74th session (2019-2020).
3. Consider the review by the General Assembly at its 72nd session (2017-2018) of resolution 68/1 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

The **issues** to be covered, related to the purpose, include:

1. General processes and procedures for MGOS participation in the HLPF, including mechanisms established for stakeholder participation in the UN Development System, frameworks/processes (e.g. Financing for Development CSO Group, Sendai Framework, etc.)
2. Thematic reviews
3. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), including national, regional and global level engagement.
4. Interlinkages, coherence, accountability and lessons learned from the first cycle of the HLPF.

Background documents:

- (a) MGOS priority recommendations for strengthening the HLPF, 23 March 2017.
- (b) “Food for thought” paper prepared by Co-facilitators (Iceland and Qatar) to lead intergovernmental consultations on the ECOSOC review process.

C. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the side-event would be an assessment of MGOS engagement in the first cycle of the HLPF and a set of recommendations that can be considered by Member States and organizations of the United Nations system in their deliberations for implementing General Assembly resolution 70/299.

D. ORGANIZERS

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders HLPF Coordination Mechanism/Steering Group
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG and OISCD)

E. SPEAKERS

30 May 2018