

Together 2030 Engagement at the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development 2017

REPORT

**FROM
POLICY TO
ACTION**

**TOGETHER
2030**

August 2017

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1. Introduction

[Together 2030](#) is a global, action-oriented initiative aiming to generate and share knowledge on the implementation and accountability of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), and project different civil society and stakeholders around the world on the challenges and opportunities of implementing the SDGs.

As part of the collective work of the Initiative, Together 2030 reviews how governments are establishing ‘a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework’ for the 2030 Agenda at all levels and on how civil society and stakeholders are being engaged in regular and inclusive reviews of progress.

Together 2030 prioritizes its engagement with the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as this is the main space for global review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The work is undertaken months prior to the official session and includes the mobilization of Together 2030 members in several ways, exchange of information and development of technical and advocacy materials.

This report presents the main activities undertaken by Together 2030 with regards to the HLPF 2017.

2. The 2017 Session of the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#) is the global structure responsible for assessing progress achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries and ensuring that the 2030 Agenda remains relevant and ambitious (para 82). In the 2030 Agenda, Member States have also emphasized that the HLPF should draw high-level political attention to gaps or areas where commitments are lagging behind and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow up to accelerate progress.

The 2017 session of the HLPF was held from 10-17 July 2017, in New York, under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its main theme was *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”*.

[According to UNDESA](#), almost 80 Ministers were present and 2458 stakeholders have registered to attend the session, which demonstrates a high level of interest and attention to this main global space for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

For the first time, the HLPF reviewed in depth the implementation of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- **SDG 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

- **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **SDG 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and
- **SDG 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- **SDG 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (This Goal will be reviewed every year).

Sessions were also held to discuss leveraging interlinkages for the effective implementation of the SDGs.

Additionally, **43¹ countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level:

2017 VNR Countries:

Afghanistan; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Botswana; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maldives; Monaco; Nepal; the Kingdom of Netherlands; Nigeria; Panama; Peru; Portugal; Qatar; Slovenia; Sweden; Tajikistan; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; Zimbabwe.

More information on the VNRs:

Detailed information and VNRs reports are available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

A compilation of VNR Executive Summaries is available here: <http://bit.ly/2ve7oiA>

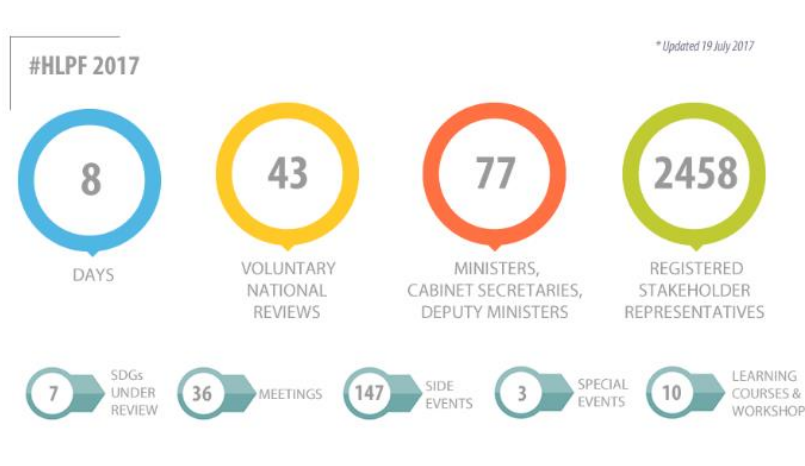
A [Ministerial Declaration](#) was adopted on July 19 after votes on paragraphs 4 and 21.

More information on the HLPF:

- ECOSOC President’s Summary of the HLPF: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16673HLPF_2017_Presidents_summary.pdf
- Summary of the HLPF and analysis from the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB): <http://enb.iisd.org/vol33/enb33336e.html>

¹ Note: Iran was listed as a VNR country but did not present.

HLPF 2017 in Numbers



Source: UNDESA <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>



Source: UNDESA <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

3. Together 2030 and the HLPF

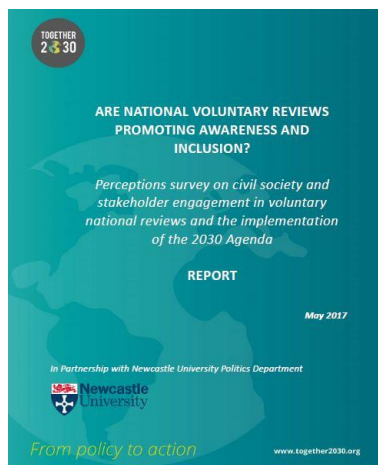
The engagement of Together 2030 with the HLPF had the following objectives: 1) Share and promote collective perspectives and inputs from Together 2030 members to Governments and stakeholders on the HLPF themes; 2) Share information on the processes and opportunities for participation to Together 2030 members; 3) Produce expert, analytical reflections to contribute to the HLPF debate and 4) Facilitate, create and maximize space for the participation of Together 2030 members in the HLPF-related spaces.

The following sections details the work of Together 2030 in preparation, during and after the HLPF.

3.1 - Preparatory Work

The Initiative has been mobilized in several ways prior to the HLPF. Below follow details about this engagement.

3.1.1. The Perceptions Survey Perceptions survey on civil society and stakeholder engagement in voluntary national reviews and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

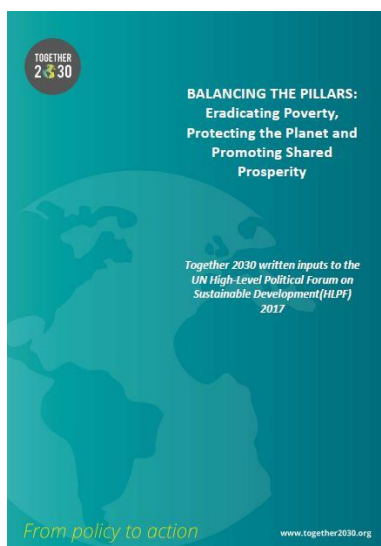
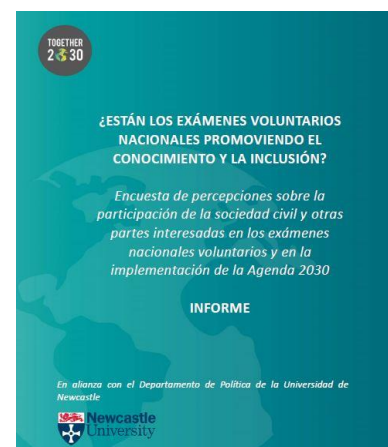


For the second year, Together 2030 has carried out a survey to collect evidence on stakeholder awareness of, and participation in, national planning and review around the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, the survey was conducted in partnership with the [Newcastle University](#). The survey received 461 responses from a range of stakeholders, including national, regional and global organizations. This perceptions survey was issued in English, Spanish and French, and was shared broadly with civil society and stakeholder mailing lists and via social media from March 3 to March 24 2017.

The **final report** is available here: <http://bit.ly/2q150Wf>. A Spanish version, prepared by [Cepei](#), can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2s8hT6e>

Additionally, a special review of the responses from Latin America and the Caribbean was prepared and, thanks to the support of [Cepei](#), translated into Spanish and disseminated during the [ECLAC Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development \(LAC RFSD\)](#).

Check the **Latin America and Caribbean Review** (In Spanish) here: <http://bit.ly/2ho5zdJ>.



3.1.2. Submission of advocacy messages to the HLPF

Ahead of the HLPF, Together 2030 has mobilized its [“Global Advocacy Working Group”](#) to prepare a [position paper](#) with key messages to governments and stakeholders on the themes of the Forum. A summary of this position paper has been included in the [official discussion paper](#) from major groups and other stakeholders to the HLPF 2017. The [full text](#) was also published at the official HLPF 2017 website as a thematic paper. Just before the HLPF, the [position paper](#) was amplified to include national experiences from seven countries (**Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, India, South Korea,**

Togo and the United Kingdom), based on contributions from Together 2030 Members in their path to promote and engage on the SDGs implementation and accountability. The paper also raises concerns around participation, accountability and transparency.

Check the position paper and country experiences here: <http://bit.ly/2wILtmJ>

3.1.3. Setting up the Scene: Preparatory Webinar

In partnership with the [TAP Network](#), Together 2030 organized a webinar on June 28 2017 to inform, discuss and exchange on main issues of the HLPF agenda.

Panelists included Benjamin Rae, UNDESA, Statistics Division; Arelys Bellorini, World Vision; Ivonne Lobos Alva, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS; Rachel Jacobson, International Women's Health Coalition; Phillip Schönrock, Cepei; Mari Ullmann, Together 2030 Consultant; John Romano, International Coordinator, TAP Network; and Naiara Costa, Together 2030 International Secretariat.

Preparatory Webinar in numbers:

- **358** people registered for the webinar
- **226** people participated in the webinar



The graphic is a teal-colored rectangular box with white and yellow text. At the top left is the 'TOGETHER 2030' logo, and at the top right is the 'TAP NETWORK' logo with the tagline 'Preparing, Accountability & Participation for 2030 Agenda'. The main text reads 'SAVE THE DATE WEBINAR: Preparing for the High Level Political Forum 2017 Wednesday, June 28 2017- 9:00-10:30 AM (NY time)'. Below this is a 'Call in details' section with a yellow background, listing the address, event number (826 938 620), password (Together2030), audio conference number (1-877-668-4493), and global call-in numbers. A registration link is provided: 'Please register here: https://goo.gl/forms/UBP457T5tANKZCoU2'. At the bottom, contact information for Together 2030 is listed: www.together2030.org, info@together2030.org, and twitter.com/Together_2030. A small circular logo with 'TOGETHER 2030' is in the bottom right corner.

The Audio recording, presentations and other resources are available here: <http://bit.ly/2f81fyn>

3.1.4. Facilitating the Participation of Together 2030 Members

Counting on the support of [World Vision](#), Together 2030 was able to facilitate registration of **34 members** to attend the HLPF. A set of criteria was defined and an open process was established to review nominations and proceed with registration.

Additionally:

- 2 Together 2030 Members were amongst the 25 participants selected to receive funding from UNDESA to attend the HLPF: Sena Alouka, from Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Togo, and Denison Jayasooria, from the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy, Malaysia.
- 2 Together 2030 members were selected to attend a High Level Breakfast organized by UNDESA and the UN Foundation on July 19: Mojisola Florence Akinsanya, Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative, Nigeria and Andrew Griffiths, from Sightsavers and Together 2030 Co-Chair, United Kingdom.

Together 2030 Co-Chairmanship of the Steering Group of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Coordination Mechanism (CM)

Together 2030 is a member of the [CM](#) and, as part of the ‘other stakeholders active on sustainable development’, is also a full member of its Steering Group. The initiative was selected to be one of its Co-Chairs. Naiara Costa has represented T2030 in this role. The other Co-Chair is Emilia Reyes from the [Women's Major Group](#).

The MGoS CM is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the participation of civil society and stakeholders at the HLPF. The [main objectives](#) of the MGoS CM are, among others: to ensure broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF; to ensure that the rights of access and inclusive participation of MGoS in the HLPF are protected and upheld; to facilitate the coordination among, and promote the participation of, all stakeholders that are involved in the HLPF process and want to contribute to it.

Check the blog post from Naiara Costa and Emilia Reyes, Co-Chairs of the Steering Group of the MGoS CM, published at the UN Sustainable Development Platform on July 7: *Facilitating space for diversity: contributions from Major Groups and Other Stakeholders*: <http://bit.ly/2uZgxJE>

3.1.5. Sharing Together 2030 Members Perspectives: The HLPF Special Blog Series

As part of the momentum building for the HLPF, Together 2030 launched a ‘[Special Blog Series](#)’, inviting members to contribute blogs on the HLPF theme, SDGs, VNRs and stakeholder engagement. The open call was disseminated on May 15 in English, Spanish and French.

HLPF Special Blog Series in numbers:

- **53** members expressed interest in sending their blogs
- **17** blogs were submitted and published in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese between July 5 and 11.


Blogs posted reflected on issues such as National and regional experiences, civil society participation, gender, policy making and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the SDGs, among others.

See below the full list and links to blogs:

<i>Together 2030 HLPF 2017 Special Blog Series</i>	<i>Link</i>
Keeping the Promise: Implementing an Agenda of the People, by the People, and for the People; <i>by Naiara Costa and Graham Long</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-rr
Don't Miss My Disability, <i>by Mahmuda Alim</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-ri
Trabajo en Red: una Propuesta Feminista para Alcanzar los ODS; <i>by</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-sn



Together 2030 HLPF 2017 Special Blog Series	Link
<i>Patricia Viviana Ponce</i>	
Maternal Health Among Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Communities: a Crucial Challenge for the Commitment to ‘leave no one behind’; <i>By Sean Roberts</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-rl
Disabled People’s Organizations and SDGs in India: Our Experience; <i>By Ketan Kothari</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-sj
Without the Organized Civil Society, Achieving the SDGs will be an Unsustainable Goal in Brazil; <i>by SDG Strategy</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-rZ
Sem Sociedade Civil, Atingir os ODS é Objetivo Insustentável no Brasil; <i>by Estratégia ODS</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-s3
Voluntary National Reviews 2017: Limited Attention to Actions on Sustainable Transport; <i>by The Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-se
Los Informes Nacionales Voluntarios de América Latina y el Caribe: ¿realismo mágico latinoamericano?; <i>by Javier Surasky</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-rc
The 2030 Agenda follow-up : Dilemmas for Civil Society, <i>by Outi Hakkarainen</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-gT
Des Écosystèmes Aquatiques de Qualité pour une Planète Prospère sans Catastrophe Climatique; <i>by Joel Hougue</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-qP
Activando Alianzas desde la Sociedad Civil; <i>by Arantza Acha</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-qC
Call for Action on the Global Ocean; <i>by Alvin Leong</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-qM
Can the High-Level Political Forum Agenda 2030 Reviews Genuinely Reflect Needs and Priorities of the Poorest and most Marginalized?; <i>by Jo Howard and Erika Lopez-Franco</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-r5
Preparando la revisión de los ODS: ¿qué Pasó en América Latina y el Caribe?; <i>by Camilo Gamba</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-rx
Breaking it Down: The Need for Civil Society Reporting; <i>by Dan Harris</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-qx
Addressing Inclusion on the Follow up of the 2030 Agenda: 6 Barriers to be Dismantled; <i>by Andrew Griffiths, Javier Surasky, and Naiara Costa</i>	http://wp.me/p70hhk-go



TOGETHER 2030

Social Media Toolkit

Together 2030 Initiative at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017
July 10 – 19, 2017, New York

FROM POLICY TO ACTION
TOGETHER 2030

MAKING AGENDA 2030 A REALITY
TOGETHER 2030

HLPF Social Media Toolkit

Together 2030 created a versatile [social media toolkit](#) to facilitate membership engagement during the HLPF. Suggested hashtags and tweets were included to allow members to **amplify messages** and share the Initiative’s work.

Together 2030 members were invited to engage via Twitter and Facebook.

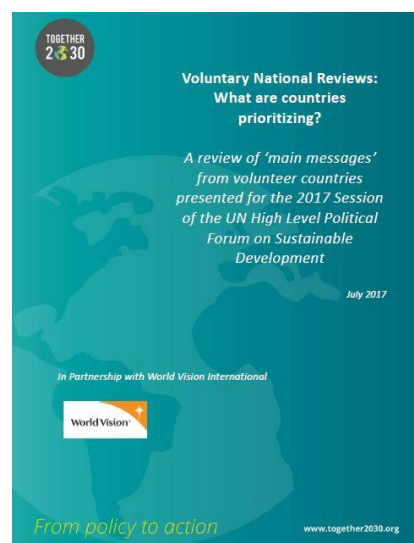
3.1.6. Holding Governments accountable: Review of VNRs ‘main messages’

Together 2030, in partnership with [World Vision](#), commissioned a [review of the Main Messages](#) submitted by Member States reporting on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the [HLPF 2017](#). The purpose of this review was to provide information to civil society stakeholders for their engagement in the HLPF, and to make recommendations for improving VNR reports in 2018 and beyond.

The [report](#) was released on July 5, as an input for the discussions during the HLPF.

Review the report here: <http://bit.ly/2tkhTiY>

An Annex with country reviews can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2tkhTiY>



3.1.7. Inputs to the HLPF Ministerial Declaration

Together 2030 has also actively engaged in the negotiation process of the HLPF [Ministerial Declaration](#), which was adopted on July 19 at the HLPF and on July 20 at the High Level Segment of ECOSOC. The intergovernmental [process](#) leading up to the Declaration included the drafting of an elements paper by the Co-Facilitators, an informal dialogue with stakeholders, and informal consultations among Member States, which included space for the participation of representatives of major groups and other stakeholders.



On **May 25 2017**, Together 2030, in partnership with [World Vision](#), the [International Disability Alliance](#), the [NGO Major Group](#), [TAP Network](#) and the Stakeholder Group on Ageing joined Member States for an informal [discussion](#) with civil society experts on recommendations and proposals for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. This timely convening was held one day before the negotiations for the Ministerial Declaration started, providing civil society a great opportunity to share their concerns and hopes for the process.

There was a shared concern that time is moving fast, and that immediate action is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Civil society asked member states to go beyond the reaffirmation of commitments and for the HLPF Ministerial declaration to be a call to action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Together 2030 Reaction to the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC High Level Segment

June 2017

Together 2030* (www.together2030.org) welcomes the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC High Level Segment.

We present below some key comments and concrete language inputs. Our contributions are based on the Initiative's [thematic paper](#) for the HLPF and [reaction](#) to the Elements Paper presented by the Co-facilitators.

Key Comments:

Together 2030 engagement on the intergovernmental process for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration:

- *May 25* - Briefing with Member States held in New York (see box above)
- *May 26* - [Reaction to the 'Elements Paper'](#) proposed by the Co-Facilitators, based on the Together 2030 official inputs to the HLPF: <http://bit.ly/2hohDeP>
- *June 16* - Reaction to the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration, based on inputs from the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group: <http://bit.ly/2sc1cnO>
- *June 16* - Together 2030 intervention during the intergovernmental negotiations, delivered by Milagros de Hoz, from the Together 2030 International Secretariat: <http://bit.ly/2ukzDrD>
- *June 21* - Milagros de Hoz presented key comments to a revised draft of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration on the negotiation session held on June 21: <http://bit.ly/2sUx96l>





Milagros de Hoz, from Together 2030 International Secretariat delivers intervention during the intergovernmental negotiations of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration (June 16)

In all those engagements, Together 2030 stressed the need to balance the **three pillars of sustainable development** -economic, social and environmental, asked Member States to recognize the **universality** of the 2030 Agenda, and urged them to reinforce the need of **political will** in accelerating the pace of implementation of the SDGs.

During the HLPF, Together 2030 joined a collective [letter](#), spearheaded by the Women’s Major Group, sent to the President of ECOSOC, urging for negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration to resume and for a strong outcome document to be adopted by the end of the HLPF.

3.2 - Engagement during the HLPF

3.2.1. Connecting Together 2030 Members - Strategy meetings

Together 2030 hosted two strategy meetings during the HLPF (July 12 and 18), with the aim of promoting networking among its members, sharing information and experiences and coordinating joint advocacy efforts. Both meetings were well attended (over 20 people each day) and served as opportunities to build upon existing relationships and create new ones. Deborah Glaser, from BCCIC, Canada and Diego Martinez-Schutt, from CAFOD, United Kingdom, facilitated one meeting each.



Together 2030 Strategy Meeting on July 12 (2-3pm) in Room S-1525 (UN Secretariat Building)



Together 2030 Strategy Meeting on July 18 (2-3pm) in Room S-2723 (UN Secretariat Building)

Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Preparatory Meeting (July 9)

Several Together 2030 members and the International Secretariat attended the preparatory meeting organized by UNDESA in partnership with the MGoS Coordination Mechanism on July 9. It was an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences, share and access information about the HLPF and discuss challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in different levels.



3.2.2. Together 2030 on the official Agenda of the HLPF



John Patrick Ngoyi (Credit: IISD)



Naiara Costa (Credit: IISD)

On **July 11**, during the thematic review on “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: Multi-stakeholder perspectives”, **John Patrick Ngoyi**, from Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria, and member of Together 2030 Core Group, presented the [collective messages](#) from the Initiative. John Patrick exhorted Member States to move from promises to action, budget allocation and implementation.

The statement was drafted in consultation with Together 2030 Members attending the HLPF. The full version of the text is available here: <http://bit.ly/2u4N8wc>.

Naiara Costa, from Together 2030 International Secretariat moderated the session.

3.2.3. Sharing perspectives: Participation at Side-Events

Together 2030 has actively engaged in side-events during the HLPF. The International Secretariat has also broadly shared information and invitations to side-events with members of the Initiative attending the HLPF.



HLPF SIDE EVENT

With the participation of representatives from Latin American and Caribbean governments, United Nations agencies and offices, civil society, foundations and academia, attending to the 2017 HLPP.

VNRs and Spotlight Reports
Reporting about the SDGs in the Latin American context

Monday, July 17th, from 13:30 to 15:00
One Hotel UN Plaza I, United Nations Plaza, 44th Street at First Avenue, New York

MODERATOR KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Alicia Bárcena Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

PRESENTERS AND DISCUSSANTS
Marcos Barroza Minister of Social Development | Chile
Philipp Schönrock Cepei | Colombia
Javier Abuggattis CEPLAN | Peru
Alessandra Nilo Gestos Y A4SD | Brazil y LAC
Miguel Santibáñez Acción y Mesa | Chile y LAC
Claire Melamed GPSDD | Global
Naiara Costa Together 2030 | Global
Thomas Wollnik Partners for Review | GIZ | Germany



- **VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting about the SDGs in the Latin American Context (July 17)**

Together 2030 joined forces with [Cepei](#), [Gestos](#), [Mesa de Articulación](#), [Accion](#) and [A4SD](#) on a side event on Monday 17 July to discuss “VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting about the SDGs in the Latin American context”. The event had an action-oriented discussion on how to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind in the LAC Region through meaningful engagement of communities at all levels. The main objectives of the side event were to foster better coordination among civil society organizations and diverse multi-stakeholders in the LAC Region; and to publicize the contributions of LAC CSO for the implementation of the SDGs in the region.

The discussion was moderated by **Paula Caballero** from World Resources Institute. Panelists included **Philipp Schönrock**, Cepei; **Iris Salinas**, Coordinator of the Governmental network on SDGs - Chile; **Alessandra Nilo**, Gestos; **Adolfo Ayuso**, Specialized Technical Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals (CTEODS); **Miguel Santibáñez**, Accion, Chile & MESA de Articulación de Asociaciones

Nacionales y Redes de ONG de ALC; **Naiara Costa**, Together 2030; **Thomas Wollnik**, Partners for Review (GIZ) and **Luis Yañez**, ECLAC.



Over 30 participants attended the meeting and engaged in informal and conversations before and after the panel presentations.

What are countries' Voluntary National Reviews telling us?: Constituencies & Children Voices

Preliminary analysis and reflections side event in the context of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Save the Date

JULY 12, 2017 · 1:15-2:30 PM
THE CHURCH CENTER OF THE UN
777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA (10TH FL)

Hosted by:
World Vision & Partners (TBA)

The Together 2030 and World Vision [Report](#) reviewing the VNR ‘main messages’ (See section 2.1.6 above) was featured at a side-event organized by World Vision and partners on July 12. The event, called “What are countries’ Voluntary National Reviews telling us?: Constituencies & Children’s Voices” also flagged the perspectives of children and other groups on the VNRs from their countries.

- **“Open, inclusive, participatory and transparent”**: How can voluntary national reviews support the pledge to “leave no one behind” in implementing the 2030 Agenda? (July 17)



Participants and Speakers at the July 17 side-event

[Sightsavers](#), Together 2030, [Leonard Chesire Disability](#)², [Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional](#) (Cepei), [Justice, Development and Peace Commission](#) (JDPC Ijebu-Ode), the [Philippine Social Enterprise Network](#), [Save Matabeleland](#), [World Vision](#), [Leading Women of Africa](#), [CAFOD](#), [Newcastle University](#) and the [Poverty Reduction Forum Trust](#) (PRFT) co-hosted this side event on July 17.


² Leonard Chesire Disability launched the report “*Disability Inclusion and the Sustainable Development Goals: Practices and Challenges*” during the side-event. It is available here: <http://bit.ly/2uUEoZu>

The event brought the views of representatives from governments, parliaments and civil society, arguing that along with more investment in implementing the sustainable development goals at national level, both parliamentarians and civil society need to be involved in ensuring pressure is maintained on governments to meet their commitments.

The aim of the event was to discuss how different countries are keeping up the momentum of delivery and implementation of their commitments as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.



July 17 side-event

	<p>Cooperation between Africa and East Asia for SDGs and Agenda 2063”</p> <p>John Patrick Ngoyi, from JDPC and member of the Together 2030 Core Group, represented the Initiative at a side-event organized by the Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs, the Africa Civil Society Working Group on SDGs, the SDGs Kenya Forum, the Peace Boat and others on July 18.</p> <p>More information is available here: http://www.hlpf-ticad.com/</p>
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3.2.4. Engaging in the debate

Two interventions were made during the HLPF by members of Together 2030, one during the review of SDG 2, on July 11, and the other during the Interlinkages session, held on July 14.

On July 11, **Benson Kibiti**, from [Caritas Kenya](http://www.caritaskenya.org), made an intervention calling for increased support to agriculture at small scale as small farmers produce most of the food eaten in the world. His statement called, among other things, for more structural interventions in rural areas, where most food insecure people live. The statement is available here: <http://bit.ly/2hCkPDL>.



On July 14, **Jo Howard**, from the [Institute of Development Studies](http://www.institutefordevelopmentstudies.org), United Kingdom, delivered a Together 2030 statement on leveraging interlinkages for effective implementation of SDGs. Together 2030 reminded Member States that the universal, and interlinked nature of the SDGs demanded a holistic approach that connects the goals rather than separates them into

silos. Read the statement here: <http://bit.ly/2urrCLv>.



ECOSOC High Level Segment

On July 20, Margie Simo, from [World Vision](#), delivered a statement on behalf of Together 2030 at the High Level Segment of the UN ECOSOC. The main theme of the debate was: *"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"*.

The Together 2030 statement called for an urgent acceleration of the implementation pace and for governments to set up, reinforce or scale up effective and inclusive institutions for SDG delivery. Together 2030 also expressed concerns to the fact that several governments only reported on a few set of SDGs during their VNRs at the HLPF.

The statement can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2uzLClq>

3.2.5. Connecting Together 2030 members

The Together 2030 International Secretariat has broadly shared information with the members of the Initiative leading up to the HLPF, including on published reports, registration deadlines and opportunities for funded participation.



For the HLPF, a **WhatsApp group** was created to share information and intel, coordinate meetings, send alerts and last minute news. It was also a space for networking for the **55** members who joined the group.



A specific Google group (T30_HLPF2017) was set up to facilitate direct engagement with members before, during and after the HLPF. Not only colleagues that travelled to New York were included, but also those who wanted to follow the event closely from their countries. **83** members joined the group and **41 emails** were sent through this group.



Together 2030 participated in the MGoS Communications Task Force during the HLPF. This group included several representatives of MG and individual organizations who volunteered their time to **coordinate and strengthen civil society messaging**, and scheduled several interviews between its representatives and the press. We organized a **Press conference** for 18 July that was unfortunately cancelled due to a need to evacuate the building. The Task Force was also responsible for facilitating the engagement between MGoS representatives and the media.

Visual Advocacy



Thanks to the support of [Sightsavers](#), two special stickers were developed and printed for distribution during the HLPF.

The material was used in presentations and also to illustrate social media messages during the HLPF.



Facilitating Access

Considering the huge number of participants to the HLPF in 2017, access to the official meeting room by civil society representatives was restricted and, for the Ministerial Segment (July 17-19), members of the Steering Group of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism were responsible for distributing the limited special tickets. Together 2030 facilitated the distribution of tickets between the **other stakeholders partners**.

Despite the fact that the distribution of tickets were only made a responsibility of the MGoS Steering Group on July 14 afternoon, Together 2030 managed to establish a system to check the interest of its members in accessing the main meeting room.

3.3 - Post-HLPF: Bringing accountability back home



Bringing Accountability Back Home

An open letter from the Together 2030 participants in the 2017 United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

As members of Together 2030, working in local, national, regional and global civil society organizations, networks, alliances, coalitions, social movements and research centers, from over 90 countries, both developing and developed, we welcome the organization of the HLPF, held from July 10-17 2017 in New York and its contribution to the ongoing mobilization of governments and stakeholders on the implementation and accountability of the SDGs.

We welcome efforts made to incorporate civil society inputs and recommendations in official documents, panel presentations and interactive sessions. We also commend the engagement of Member States, especially the 43 that presented their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF 2017.

It is clear that stakeholders are taking seriously the call to be part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this spirit, we share the following observations and recommendations in order to continue deepening and strengthening the HLPF as a process, and as a space, to review and guide the implementation of the SDGs, leading towards the fulfillment of its mandate.

During the HLPF, Together 2030 members have shared perspectives, concerns and recommendations regarding the structure, content and potential impact of the Forum. Those were compiled and articulated in an [Open Letter](#) shared broadly with governments, UN entities, civil society and other stakeholders.



The letter includes reflections and recommendations on several aspects including on strengthening the VNRs process and civil society and stakeholder participation at the HLPF.

The letter can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/2ul1GHt>



Planning the next steps: Together 2030 Core Group Meeting



Members of the Together 2030 Core Group attending the HLPF met on July 16 to review the main achievements of the Initiative so far, discuss the current status of the 2030 implementation and follow up and strategize on next steps for Together 2030. Updates will be shared with the Together 2030 membership accordingly.

Social Media outreach

The [Together 2030 Twitter](#) account (@Together_2030) had an increase of **161 new followers** during the month of July (reaching 1444 followers on August 2nd 2017) and 70.5k tweet impressions (+316,3% compared to the previous month).

The [Together 2030 Facebook page](#) was set up later in June 2017 and had a total of **167 followers** (as of August 2 2017). 82 new followers were added during the month of July (+646%).

Twitter (as of August 2 2017)



Facebook (as of August 2 2017)

Total Page Followers: **167**



About this report

This report was prepared by Naiara Costa and Milagros De Hoz, from the Together 2030 International Secretariat. Draft was reviewed by the Core Group. The following Core Group members engaged on its edition: Andrew Griffiths (Sightsavers); Arellys Bellorini (World Vision); Javier Suraski (Cepei) and Ola Abu Alghaib (Leonard Cheshire Disability).

Together 2030 is grateful to all its members that engaged and collaborated in the work leading up, during and after the HLPF.

About Together 2030

Together 2030 (www.together2030.org) is a civil society initiative that promotes national implementation and track progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Initiative, set up in December 2015, aims at generating knowledge and project voices from different civil society and stakeholders around the world on the challenges and opportunities for the 2030 Agenda. Together 2030 brings together actors to discuss the way to formulate and implement roadmaps at national level and hold governments to account at all levels.