

Together 2030 Engagement at the United Nations
High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on
Sustainable Development 2019
REPORT



September 2019

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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.

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 regarding the HLPF 2019.

2. The 2019 Session of the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the 2030 Agenda

This year's session of the HLPF was of particular importance as it marked the first four years (first cycle) of SDGs implementation. The first cycle of the HLPF ending in 2019 will lead up to the first HLPF review, which will kick off in September 2019 during the SDGs Summit convening Head of States. As mandated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its paragraph 87, the HLPF will meet every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly and "will provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation".

The 2019 session of the HLPF was held from 9-18 July 2019, in New York, under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its main theme was "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

[According to UNDESA](#), over 125 Ministers and other officials were present at the HLPF and as well as over 2000 registered participants.

The HLPF reviewed in depth the implementation of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Additionally, 47 countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, out of which seven presented for the second time. In addition, 17 VNR Labs were hosted during the two weeks of the HLPF.

2019 VNR Countries:

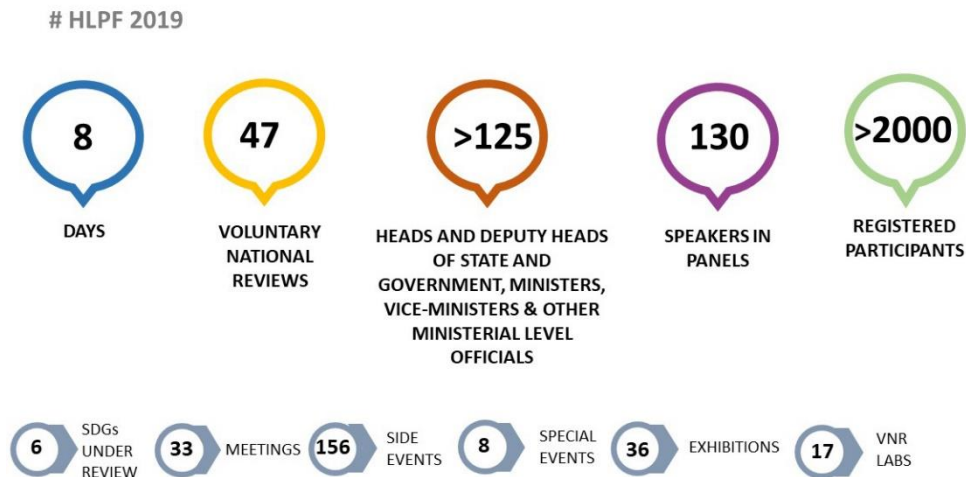
Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cote d’Ivoire, Croatia, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UK, Vanuatu

More information on the VNRs:

Detailed information on the VNR reports and VNR Labs can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

As the HLPF will be meeting in September under the auspices of the General Assembly, no Ministerial Declaration was adopted in July. Instead, a Political Declaration will be adopted at the SDGs Summit, which was already negotiated by Member States earlier this year. The ECOSOC President’s summary of HLPF 2019 is available here: <https://undocs.org/en/E/HLPF/2019/8>

HLPF 2019 in Numbers



Source UNDESA

3. Together 2030 and the HLPF: Preparatory Work



3.1. Written inputs to the HLPF 2019

As every year, Together 2030 mobilized its [Global Advocacy Working Group](#) to put together a position paper with key advocacy messages focused on this year's theme and Goals under review. The paper also raises concerns around **participation, accountability and transparency** and briefly addresses the upcoming **HLPF review** scheduled for the 74th Session of the General Assembly.

A summary of this position paper has been included in the [official discussion paper](#) from major groups and other stakeholders to the HLPF 2019. The full text as well as [summary](#) can be found on the HLPF [official website](#).

The position paper of Together 2030 served as the main advocacy source for engagement. Members were encouraged to use this paper for their interactions and statements during the HLPF.

3.2. Preparing for the HLPF: Pre-Webinar

In partnership with the [TAP Network](#), Together 2030 organized a preparatory webinar on July 1 2019 aiming at informing and discussing with members main issues of the HLPF agenda.

Panelists included Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers; Arelys Bellorini, World Vision; Javier Surasy, CEPEI; Gomer Padong, PHILSEN; Rosina Pobee, Sightsavers; John Romano, TAP Network; Annisa Triyanti, UN Major Group of Children and Youth; and Margie Simo, Together 2030.

120 participants attended the Webinar. Recording, presentations and notes can be found [here](#).

TOGETHER 2030
WEBINAR:
Preparing for the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019
Monday, July 1, 2019
9:00-10:30 AM (EST)

Speakers

- Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers
- Arelys Bellorini, World Vision
- Javier Surasy, CEPEI
- Gomer Padong, PHILSEN
- Rosina Pobee, Sightsavers
- John Romano, TAP Network
- Annisa Triyanti, UN Major Group of Children and Youth
- Margie Simo, Together 2030

Webinar details & Registration
Please register here: <https://forms.gle/MYH77PNLScRu5XF8>
Event address for attendees: <https://www.webex.com/join/joinstage.jsp?MTD=4958a16648715d8412d79c5a0267b47c2>
Event number: 822 930 748 | Event password: Together2030

3.3. Facilitating the Participation of Together 2030 Members

For third year in a row, thanks to the support of [World Vision](#), Together 2030 was able to facilitate registration of **27 members to attend the HLPF**. A set of criteria was defined and an open process was established to review nominations and proceed with registration.

Together 2030 made an open call to put forward a limited number of members to be selected as HLPF official speakers as well as to receive funding for travel. The overall selection process was in charge of the Steering Group of the MGoS Coordination Mechanism who selected within all

the individuals proposed by each major group/other stakeholder a final list of candidates to be submitted to UN DESA and ECOSOC President for approval and final selection.

The process proved to be very limited in terms of spots available to accommodate enough members so our constituency could only be granted with one speaking opportunity and one funding beneficiary.

4. Engagement during the HLPF

4.1. Members Strategy meetings

Together 2030 hosted two strategy meetings during the HLPF with the aim of promoting networking among its members, sharing information and experiences.

The meetings were held on July 11 (first week) and July 16 (second week) in the Secretariat Building in room M-2726. Our Core Group members John Patrick Ngoyi and Gomer Padong, together with Margie Simo, International Secretariat of Together 2030 facilitated the meeting.



Together 2030 members at the Strategy Meeting

4.2. Together 2030 on the HLPF official Agenda.



Chris Derksen-Hiebert, World Vision

Chris Derksen-Hiebert from World Vision was selected as a resource person representing Together 2030 on the session “Four years of VNRs: what have we learned on implementing the SDGs?” which took place on July 15 in conference room 4, at the conference room building of the United Nations. Chris intervention focused on civil society engagement in SDGs implementation and the challenges that SDGs represent due to their scope and complexity. The full version of the intervention is available [here](#)

4.3. Participation at Side-Events

4.3.1 *Renewing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Civil Society perspectives on Principles for a successful HLPF review- Together 2030 side event*

Together 2030 in partnership with [Action for Sustainable Development](#), [Forus](#), and [TAP network](#) convened a side event during the HLPF to present their [shared principles on the HLPF reform](#). The aforementioned organizations joined forces to develop a paper with shared principles outlining the key elements that are critical to consider in the HLPF review in order to improve the global level of the follow up and review mechanisms, recognizing the impact of the HLPF on regional and national implementation.

The side event took place on July 11 in Conference 1 of the conference building of the UN. The event featured an interactive discussion on the perspectives of the review, what is the current landscape and potential shortfalls as well as to hear from them their expectations regarding the outcomes from such process. Panelists included Deirdre de Burca, Forus; John Patrick Ngoyi, Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Ijebu-Ode and Core Group member of Together 2030; Dr. Marianne Beisheim, German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Corlett Letlojane, Human Rights Institute of South Africa; Deepesh Paul Thakur, AP-RCEM; Pedro Bocca, ABONG; and Akmal Ali, PIANGO. Chris Derksen-Hiebert from World Vision moderated the session. The event was well attended with over 100 participants in the room.



Panel members

The side event was covered by the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) and featured in an article on their website as well as on their Twitter account. Article is available [here](#).

4.3.2. *What do Major Groups and Other Stakeholders want out of the HLPF Review?- Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) collective side event*

Together 2030 is a member of the Coordination Mechanism and, as part of the ‘other stakeholders active on sustainable development’, is also a full member of its Steering Group. Together 2030 took the lead in organizing the MGoS collective side event at the HLPF 2019.

The side event **“What do Major Groups and Other Stakeholders want out of the HLPF Review?”**, which took place on July 17, focused on the upcoming HLPF review and the outcomes that the MGoS expect to see in such review. Panelists included representatives of various Major Groups and other Stakeholders, namely, Sachini Perera (Women’s Major Group); John Patrick Ngoyi (T2030); Wali Haider (AP-RECM) and Mohammad Zia -ur- Rehman (Volunteers Group). The moderation was in charge of Co-Chair of the CM Steering Group, Stefano Prato (FfD Group).



Panel members

The event was held at Conference Room 2 in the Conference Building of the UN. Over **90 people** attended.

4.3.3. Checks and Balances Wanted: How to Better Engage Parliaments in the 2030 Agenda - Side event in partnership with the German NGO Forum



Gomer Padong with other members of the panel

Together 2030 was invited by the [German NGO Forum on Environment and Development](#), to partner in a side event to discuss the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how to better engage them in the process. Others in partners in this event were [Bread for the World Germany](#) and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN. Gomer Padong from Philsen and Core Group member of Together 2030 was one of the panelists of the event.

His intervention focused on Together 2030’s work in engaging parliaments, highlighting in particular our civil society handbook Engaging parliaments on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: representation, accountability and implementation. The side event took place on July 16 at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations.

4.4. Engaging in the General Debate

Two interventions were made during the HLPF by members of Together 2030, one during the review of SDG 8, and the other during the review of SDG 10.



Richard Rumsey, World Vision

On July 10, Richard Rumsey from World Vision, delivered a Together 2030 statement during the review of SDG 8 calling for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for young people by 2030; promoting economic and financial inclusion for women and; strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards. Read the statement [here](#)

On July 11, Lucy Espila, from Caritas Kenya, delivered a statement during the review of SDG 10 on rising inequalities that conventional economic models create in Africa and how the SDGs and Laudato Si can help with tackling such inequalities. The statement is available [here](#).

Together 2030 also inputted on a combined statement delivered by the LGBTI Stakeholder Group, NGO Major Group and Volunteers during the review of SDG 4 on July 9. Read the statement [here](#).



Lucy Espila, Caritas Kenya

4.5. 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, and send alerts and last minute news. It was also a space for networking for the **50 members** who joined the group.



A specific Google group was set up to facilitate direct engagement with members before, during the HLPF. A total of **109 members** joined the group.

5. Post-HLPF & Next Steps

5.1. Together 2030 next steps: Core Group Face –to-Face Meeting

Members of the Together 2030 Core Group and the Secretariat attending the HLPF met on July 13 to review the main achievements of the Initiative thus far, reflect on the current landscape in light of the HLPF review as well as discuss a new strategy for Together 2030 for the period of 2019-2020.

Updates will be shared with the Together 2030 membership accordingly.



5.2. Social Media Engagement

JUL 2019 SUMMARY

Tweets	Tweet impressions
106	473K
Profile visits	Mentions
1,445	94
New followers	
105	

The [Together 2030 Twitter](#) account (@Together_2030) had an increase of **105 new followers** during the month of July, reaching a total of 2,647 followers by August 1st 2019.

Over a **100 tweets** HLPF related were going off from T2030 account both scheduled as well as live tweeting during the HLPF days. The account reached **473K impressions**, the highest number thus far since the account was created in 2015.

We also want to highlight the **special blog contribution** on SDGs alignment and policy in

The Netherlands made by our colleague Gerjan Agterhof from Building Change. The blog is available [here](#).

5.3. HLPF Debrief Webinar

On August 14, Together 2030 in partnership with TAP Network hosted a Webinar in order to debrief our members on the 2019 HLPF and hold an interactive discussion with members to hear their experiences and reflections of the HLPF. The Webinar also feature an exchange on the upcoming SDGs Summit in September under the auspices of the General Assembly. **99 people** participated.

Panelists included Florence Mojisola, Women for Peace & Gender Equality (Nigeria); Alessandra Nilo, Gestos (Brazil); John Romano, TAP Network; Gomer Padong, Philsen; Valnora Edwin, Sierra Leone Coalition, and Arelys Bellorini from World Vision as the moderator. Recordings and presentations are available [here](#).



INVITATION
WEBINAR
Debrief on HLPF 2019 & Exchange
on SDGs Summit
Wednesday, August 14 2019
9:30 – 11:00 am (EST)

Register here:
<https://forms.gle/jqKh6mx26spwKGmK9>

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About this Report

This report was prepared by Margie Simo, from the Together 2030 International Secretariat. Draft was reviewed by the Core Group. 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 brings together actors to discuss the way to formulate and implement roadmaps at national level and hold governments to account at all levels.