

Together 2030

Written inputs to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Executive Summary

The 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) needs to add to its yearly session one primary goal: To set the Summit of the Future (SOTF) ambition high.

Even when the SOTF and the SDGs follow-up and review are different processes, their links are strong and needs to be clearly established. It won't be possible to accelerate and deliver on the SDGs without providing international multilateralism with the required tools to do so, a task that the SOTF should undertake.

Areas of particular interest aligned to the SDGs under in-depth review that can contribute to setting standards for the SOTF are:

On SDG 1: Besides the failure to reduce poverty globally, new forms of poverty are rising. Particularly worrying is the "digital poverty" that implies millions are not benefiting from digital technologies, leading to increased inequalities within and between countries. Vulnerable groups that Member States promised to prioritize in the 2030 Agenda will be the most affected, including children and people with disabilities.

On SDG 2: The current global hunger crises is alarming and malnutrition continues to underlie most children's deaths. Despite commitments to address nutrition targets made by Member States, little progress has been made. The HLPF should send a sound message for the Summit of the Future to prioritize addressing the issue of hunger globally.

On SDG 13: It is critical to keep pushing for more decisive action against climate change and to create new financing lines to address its impacts. We must prioritize fighting climate change disinformation in our efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement goals. The HLPF should push for the SOTF to ensure that climate financing is at the center of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025.

On SDG 16: There is a long overdue need to reform the multilateral institutions, including the International Financing Institutions. Without improved financing for development and climate change, it will be impossible to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. At the same time, if the UN cannot face its own reform, it will be morally incapable of asking other institutions to do the same. The HLPF should state clearly that the UN would not deliver accelerated SDG results without changing its main bodies' institutions and ways of work, a responsibility to be held by the SOTF.

On SDG 17: Civil Society faces increased obstacles to participate in Member States led processes, where conference rooms are closed to Civil Society. Member States should revert back to previous practices immediately. To accelerate the implementation of SDGs, we need more participation, transparency, and more defined stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

Finally, the HLPF should explore how to push for more solid statistical systems in developing countries because it will not be possible to accelerate SDGs' progress without data, and how to deal with issues that were not considered in the 2030 Agenda and, nevertheless, have direct impact on SDGs' achievement, such as Artificial Intelligence.

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