

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies – the path towards transformation

Together 2030 written inputs to the HLPF 2018, summary:

The diverse challenges and interlinked uncertainties of globalization and climate change demand societies to become more and more flexible to withstand crises, reinventing themselves in resilient, integrated, sustainable, multi-dimensional and inclusive ways. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of this approach and the theme of the 2018 HLPF is an opportunity to go beyond the identification of challenges, towards discussing concrete, collective and funded action that move societies to be more sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

In order to achieve this, countries must cooperate to address the systemic and overlapping inequalities in wealth distribution, gender, income, disability, age and indigeneity or ethnicity, among others. National and local governments should adopt a human-rights based approach to implementing the SDGs, in particular, with respect to the SDGs under review this year at the HLPF.

However, Member States need to reaffirm that, as part of the 2030 Agenda, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the SDGs should respect “their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development” (para 74). Accordingly, VNRs should reflect on the implementation of all goals and their interlinkages. The thematic reviews of a small set of SDGs, undertaken during the first segment of the HLPF, should not dictate or minimize the scope of the VNRs.

Moreover, VNRs are not a substitute for national processes. Instead, they should be viewed as opportunities to build national and sub-national dialogues and mechanisms on implementation and offer a learning space among all stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement in the VNR process should be encouraged before, during and after the HLPF – this needs to be through the appropriate, representative and self-organised civil society coordination mechanisms at the national level. In addition, national indicator frameworks should be developed in a way that reflects the whole agenda, especially the need to be inclusive of non-economic measures.

At the HLPF, we strongly recommend the allocation of additional time for MGoS interventions, especially from national CSO platforms and alliances from reporting countries, in order to allow for more inclusive and participatory engagement; to better listen to the experience of the poorest, most marginalized and disadvantaged from VNR countries; and for more meaningful exchanges with Member States. We also recommend the HLPF program include spaces for stakeholders to reflect and provide more detailed feedback on the VNRs presented by their countries and share their own contributions to the SDGs implementation, for example through parallel VNRs.

For the specific goals under review in 2018, there is a common need for a greater focus on the integration of policy agendas and cross-ministerial cooperation, as well as mechanisms to include the voices of the poorest and most marginalised in planning processes. In addition:

- Goal 6: a greater focus needs to be places on open and transparent financing, recognising the return on investment in WASH (every \$1 invested returns \$4 in economic benefit)
- Goal 7 should be seen as an enabler for other development goals, especially gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Goal 11: there is a need for a focus on the equal use of cities, with a rights-based approach to housing and services; as well as a greater recognition of the social and ecological function of land

- Goal 12: all countries should commit to the national adoption of ISO 20400: Sustainable Procurement, including the ISO as an implementation tool for best practice foreign aid
- Goal 15: ecosystem-based policy solutions should be based on the affirmation that the right to a safe, healthy and ecologically-balanced environment is a human right in itself