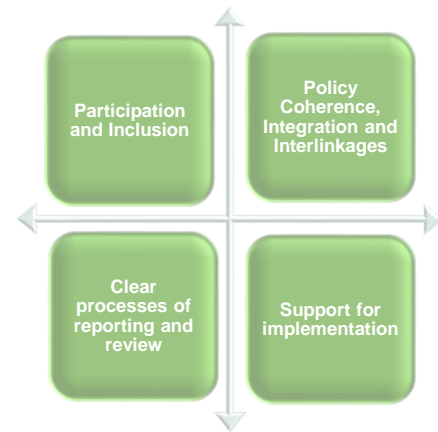


**Essential Elements for an ambitious, inclusive and participatory follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda**

A “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework” (para 72, 2030 Agenda) will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Four elements must be addressed at national, regional and global levels: 1) *Participation and Inclusion*; 2) *Policy Coherence, Integration and Interlinkages*; 3) *Clear processes and mechanisms of reporting and review* 4) *Support for Implementation of these processes*.



**Participation and Inclusion**

- Review processes at national, regional and global levels should be inclusive, transparent and participatory, and provide spaces enhancing the capacity of civil society and stakeholders to hold governments accountable for the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Civil society and stakeholders should have access to information, reports, meetings and be directly engaged in review efforts at all levels. Technical and financial resources should be allocated to facilitate participation of civil society.

**Policy Coherence, Integration and Interlinkages**

- Follow up and review processes at all levels must be guided by the principles and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, especially its universal and integrated nature, and address interlinkages within the SDGs.
- Emphasis on most vulnerable and marginalized groups should be at the forefront of the review. Policies and strategies should also be included to demonstrate that they will not be left behind.
- Review processes at all levels should identify decision-making mechanisms or existing policies that can undermine or prevent delivery of the SDGs and foster change to a coherent and mutually supportive policy environment.
- Review processes should also identify the drivers, sectoral measures and actors that can best yield solutions.

**Clear mechanisms and processes of reporting and review**

- A clear mechanism should be established by which governments submit reports to the HLPF – and regional level – and for feedback to be provided back to the national level.
- Clear national review mechanisms should be established that go beyond periodic reporting to the HLPF.
- Clear reporting mechanisms and guidelines should also be set for inputs provided by civil society and stakeholders on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.

**Support for implementation**

- Outcomes of reviews should be broadly disseminated in several languages, allowing stakeholders globally to review reports.
- There should be spaces for outcomes of, and feedback on, reviews at each level to be taken up and discussed in national and subnational arenas, focusing on strengthening the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Tools for meaningful collaboration should be developed, including online tools, open source software platforms, data collection methods.

In the sections below, we outline detailed recommendations for each level of the process, showing how these four elements should guide the establishment of a multi-level review system. In doing so, we address key issues at each level:

- At the **national** level, we address the **process of periodic national review** (section 1a) and **national preparation of voluntary country reports** for the HLPF (1b).
- At the **regional** level, the key issue is **what the role of regional institutions should be** (section 2).
- With regard to **global** review through the HLPF, we address the design of the **system for voluntary country reviews** (3a); how those **reviews should be followed up** (3b); the prospect of global **thematic reviews** (3c); and **review of the wider “global partnership for sustainable development”** (3d).

## (1) NATIONAL LEVEL

The engagement of civil society and stakeholders should go beyond reviewing progress in implementation. Instead, stakeholder should participate in the design of national strategies and responses to the global SDG framework. Additionally, consultation with stakeholders should be seen by governments as an opportunity to learn about innovative experiences on service delivery and support at national, sub-national and community levels.

### *(a) National Process of Review*

- An inclusive, multi-sectoral and participatory **national structure** should be set up to coordinate national review, and to liaise with the regional and global levels.
- **Clear national and sub-national review processes** should be set up in every country for civil society and other stakeholders to provide inputs in the preparation of national reports and reviews.
- Civil society and other stakeholders should have access to **timely information** and data about national follow up and reviews process as well as opportunities for engagement. This includes collaboration in the collection of information and data as well as being aware of who is coordinating the drafting of national reports, when and how.
- **Financial and technical resources** should be allocated to allow for the participation of civil society and stakeholders in national review processes, with a special focus on the poorest and most marginalized.
- Civil society and stakeholders should be granted **appropriate spaces, and time, to consult** and prepare collective inputs to be considered in the national review process, and to report back on how they are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Spaces, common guidelines and “templates” should be agreed for the collection of inputs from civil society and stakeholders. Different tools and approaches should be used, including online, written submissions, face-to-face meetings and others.
- Governments should establish clear **focal points** responsible to connect and facilitate civil society and stakeholder engagement in the follow up and review.
- In line with Paragraph 83 of Agenda 2030, which calls for strengthening the **science-policy interface**, all countries should establish platforms for engaging the scientific and technological community, academia and other stakeholders to ensure that national reviews are evidence-based and analytically rigorous.
- **Capacity building** programmes should be developed for civil society and other stakeholders so they can provide inputs and follow national review processes. Capacity building in the fields of utilization of statistical data, "big data", data mining and the use of SDG indicators should be made available.

(b) National-level preparation for reports to the High Level Political Forum

*Processes of political mobilization in support of the implementation of the SDGs at district and sub-district levels are needed and create bottom up demands by citizens. Civil society and stakeholders have **much to offer in terms of expertise** given its multiplicity of roles including data analysis and policy advocacy, consequently, civil society participation could also be sought on technical issues.*

- Governments should include in their reports information on the **process followed for generating the report**, including on the engagement of civil society and other stakeholders, addressed to the principles set out in para 74 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Civil society and stakeholders should be engaged in the **analysis of national reports** and subsequent decision-making regarding policies following from the review processes.

● Governments should **include representatives of civil society and stakeholders** – including with funding support - in their **national delegations** attending the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

- Civil society and stakeholders should be permitted and encouraged to prepare and submit **parallel reports**, to be sent to the HLPF.
- Civil society and other stakeholders should be invited, by reporting Member States and/or ECOSOC, to **speak and present their perspectives on their national report** as well as their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the HLPF sessions (as per A/RES/67/290, para 15 (d) and A/RES/70/1).

**(2) REGIONAL LEVEL**

- The role of the regional level **should be clearly established**, considering the differences within the regions and the different types of organizations that will engage on follow up and review at that level.
- In our view, the regional level should be used to reinforce “**weak spots**” in the review architecture – especially aspects that are not properly covered in individual national reviews or macro global reviews - and ensure policy coherence among countries, regional intergovernmental bodies as well coherence and coordination between national, regional and global levels.
- Regional reviews should support **trend analysis, information and knowledge sharing** within regions and support the coordination of regional positions and priorities. Regional structures could facilitate and coordinate efforts in this regard, not only between governments but also between civil society and stakeholders.
- Regional structures could facilitate in the mobilization of **financial and technical support** for national reviews.
- Civil society representatives should be included in **country delegations** attending regional review meetings and be invited to present how they are contributing to the implementation of the SDGs.
- A clear **line of communication** between regional and global reviews should be established and stakeholders should be included in spaces where regional reviews are analyzed at the global level.

**(3) GLOBAL LEVEL**

(a) Review of country reports at the HLPF

- All countries should volunteer for **at least three national reviews** between 2016-2030, aligning them with national development plans. Reviewing national reports could be done in parallel streams, allowing for more time and space for comprehensive discussions at the global level on country situations, and to avoid being limited by the eight official meeting days currently mandated for the HLPF.
- Global reviews at the HLPF should involve **meaningful discussion** of each country’s report, not simply presentation of it, and guidelines should be established for that discussion.

- Reports, and review of reports, should be guided by - and addressed to - the **principles** outlined in para 74 of Agenda 2030; notably, the universal and indivisible character of the SDGs; the imperative to leave no one behind; inclusivity and participation; and human rights standards.
- The review of national reports should be also informed by **outcomes of other global review processes**, including (but not limited to) the UPR, OECD, GPEDC peer review and mutual accountability processes.
- Each country review should result, by the end of the Ministerial segment, in a number of **agreed action points** allocated to different actors. Some action points will apply to the reviewed states but others should be directed to regional bodies and the full range of stakeholders and partnerships.
- A **clear, transparent and inclusive system** for the participation of civil society and other stakeholders should be established for the engagement at reviews conducted at the HLPF, including focusing on bringing the views of the most vulnerable and marginalized. This should follow the **modalities** established by resolution 67/290 and allow for written submissions and oral contributions in public review sessions. It is expected, as per resolution 67/290, that stakeholders will self-organize to maximize the quality and coordination of their inputs.
- Improved **mechanisms for participation** should be established at the HLPF, allowing for a broader diversity of voices to be heard.
- **Online platforms** are one potential tool for collection of inputs although all efforts should be made to promote accessibility (especially for persons with disabilities) and facilitate internet access, especially to collect the views of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Inputs collected via online platforms must have a clear path towards deliberations of the HLPF otherwise they may be easily ignored. Open source tools should be prioritized and promoted.
- Appropriate **funding and technical support** should be allocated for the participation of civil society and other stakeholders at the HLPF. Governments should include civil society representatives in their **national delegations** to the HLPF, especially those volunteering for national reviews.
- - (b) *Follow up after HLPF country reviews*
    - Recommendations collected during the process of presenting national reviews at the HLPF should be explicitly **addressed at the next country review** and followed-up at the regional and national levels in the interim.
    - Global reviews generate a good space to **publicize, disseminate and organize debates** around countries' reviews and the outcomes of those discussions should be brought back to the national level to support decision-making and next steps.
  - (c) *Thematic Review at the HLPF*
    - Member States may consider carrying out thematic reviews on a limited or sub-set of goals during the HLPF to allow for deepen deliberation of specific issues. However, careful consideration should be taken on how those goals are selected for review as they should not bring the siloed approach back to the UN and the **selection of a sub-set of goals should strengthen and not jeopardize the interlinkages** committed at Agenda 2030. The review of a selected sub-set of goals should be identified based on **crosscutting issues** for implementation as well as ensuring coherence with other intergovernmental platforms taking place each year in order to ensure the interconnections and alignment among these platforms and the achievement of the SDGs.
    - **Themes for the HLPF** should be established every two years, allowing time for member states and stakeholders to properly prepare and for the appropriate response to emerging issues. Civil society and stakeholders should be invited to provide inputs on the themes for HLPF segments and discussions.

*(d) Review of the wider “global partnership for sustainable development”*

- Global review processes should also open spaces to display and analyse the **contributions of civil society and other stakeholders, including from grassroots and community organizations, to national implementation**. For this to happen, capacity building, awareness and support (including financial support) will be needed.
- Global reviews are also a strategic opportunity to ensure **global policy coherence**, identifying decisions-making mechanisms or policies that can undermine or hamper the achievement of the SDGs, and presenting maps and analysis of “implementation models” in different countries and regions and for the UN Membership to be able to track the general level of implementation of the commitments.
- The HLPF should also allocate time to discuss and review national, regional and global **review processes**, allowing for improvements in transparency and access to information as well as for more participatory systems to be set in place over time.

**About this paper:**

*This paper is issued on behalf of the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group. The original draft was developed based on inputs to questions proposed by the Together 2030 Secretariat and opened for consultations from February 15-29 2016. A second and final round of comments was open to the Working Group from March 7 to 11 2016. The draft was also discussed during a meeting held on March 10 and was finalized by the Together 2030 Secretariat with the support of volunteers from the Group.*

*Especial thanks goes to Silvia Guzzini (WWF), Graham Long (Newcastle University) and Arelys Bellorini (World Vision International) for their expert support in the final review of the text.*

*Organisations engaged on the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group (list below) were invited to collaborate and provide inputs to this document. Final text reflect the summary and collection of those inputs but not necessarily, the agreement or endorsement of those organizations on all proposals presented.*

**Diversity of Opinion within civil society:**

*Members of Together 2030 express and prioritize different aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs and provide a broad range of views regarding its implementation and follow up. Members are united in the following objectives:*

- *To strengthen partnerships between civil society and stakeholders to support the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.*
- *To make the voices of people heard and have people holding governments accountable for the progress towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at all levels.*

**April 2016**

**Annex 1 – List of organisations participating in the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group (as of April 8 2016)**

Abibimman Foundation	Ghana
ACT FOR CHANGE	Ghana
Action for Youth Development Uganda	Uganda
ADD International	Global
AFHON CI	COTE D'IVOIRE
Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)	Cameroon
Africa Philanthropic Foundation/ Africa CSOs Working Group	Tanzania
African Foundation for Environment and Development	Nigeria
Ageing Nepal	Nepal
AIESEC	Bolivia, Plurinational State of
Ako Foundation	Ghana
Allfordevelopment foundation	Nigeria
ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE SORDOS DE PANAMA	PANAMA
Association for promotion sustainable development	India
Association YOUTHLEAD	TOGO
Bahai international community	USA
BASAB BD	Bangladesh
Biovision	Switzerland
Botswana Climate Change Network	Botswana
CAFOD	United Kingdom
Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Tamilnadu & Pudhucherry	India
Caritas Ghana	Ghana
CBM Germany	Germany
CBM International	International
Center for Peace and Development Effectiveness	Liberia
Center for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development	Switzerland
Centre for Girls and Interaction	Malawi
Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research	Nigeria
Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa	Nigeria
CENTRE OMBRE DES FEMMES DU BURUNDI	BURUNDI

Cepei	Argentina
Cepei	Colombia
CERACA-ong	BENIN
ChildFund Alliance	International
CHOSEN Trust	Zimbabwe
Civil Society MDG Campaign/GCAP Zambia	Zambia
CNAPOST2015	BENIN
Community & Youth Enhancement Initiative (C-YEI)	Nigeria
Community Development Initiative	Nigeria
community oriented development action	TANZANIA
Convention pour l'Emergence du Sénégal - Coalition Agenda Post2015 (C.E.S-C.A.P2015)	Senegal
COUP DE POUCE ONGD	DRC
CRADDES NGO	Benin
CRADDH	TOGO
CSYM HUDUMA *MTANDAO-NETWORK	TANZANIA
DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C.	Mexico
Development Services Exchange	Solomon Islands
Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Emonyo Yefwe International	KENYA
End Water Poverty	UK
Ethical Youth International	Nigeria
EZIODU INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT(EISED)	NIGERIA
FLACJ	Argentina
France Volontaires	France
GCAP Rwanda Coalition	Rwanda
Gestos-	Brazil
Global Campaign For Education	India
Global Peace and And Development Organization	Liberia
GOLD ONG	Bénin

HaritaDhara Research Development and Education Foundation	India
HATOF Foundation	Ghana
Hope foundation for social entrepreneurship (HoFoSe)	Tanzania
human rights defence club	Cameroon
Humanitaire Plus	USA
ICMC	Belgium
Inclusion International	Canada/UK
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies	Germany
Institute for Conscious Global Change	USA
Institute for Sustainability, Newcastle University	UK
International Disability Alliance	USA
Jeres	El Salvador
Media Initiatives for Social Change Org.	Pakistan
MFANO HAI 1ST AFRICA QUALITY	TANZANIA
Nablore Theauo Academy of Sports and Arts	Liberia
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS(NAYO)	ZIMBABWE
National Confederation of Dalit Adivasi Organisations (NACDAOR)	India
National Council of NGOs in Kenya C/O Sosurwo Fonds Kenya Organization	Kenya
Nether's Economic and Educational Development Society (NEEDS), Tamilnadu	India
Newcastle University	UK
NGO: Amis des Etrangers au Togo (ADET)	Togo
Ohaha Family Foundation	Nigeria
ONG Carbone Guinée	Guinée
PEAN	Papua New Guinea
People to People International, Nigeria	Nigeria
PRAJACo	Jamaica

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Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation	Aruba, Dutch Caribbean
Rio Monte	Montenegro
RJEDD/BF	Burkina Faso
Rosy Touch initiative for Development (ROTID)	Nigeria
SAMACO	Zimbabwe
Saptodinga	Bangladesh
Seed Institute	Kenya
SETF/GCAP	India
Soka Gakkai International	Japan
SOLIDARITE DES FEMMES BURUNDAISES POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA ET LE PALUDISME AU BURUNDI	BURUNDI
Somos el Presente	Perú
SOS Children's Villages International	Global
SUNFO-Gcap Lanka Network	Sri Lanka
SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	MALAWI
TERRE DES JEUNES DU BURUNDI-TRANSNATIONAL	BURUNDI
The Hunger Project Mexico	Mexico
UC Berkeley	USA
Uganda Peace Foundation	Uganda
WaterAid	UK
WOMEN FOR CHANGE ORGANIZATION	Liberia
Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative	Nigeria
World Vision	Global
WWF International	Switzerland
Young Volunteers for Environment Cameroon	Cameroon
Youth Association for Development (YAD)	Pakistan
Youth Empowerment Synergy	Ghana
YOWLI BURUNDI	Burundi
Zambia Council for Social Development(ZCSD	Zambia