



Together 2030 Protocols for Policy development

Approved by the Core Group on **April 2016**

As a global initiative, Together 2030 will be organized in different working modalities and a clear understanding on how policies and positions are formed as well as the status of documents circulated for comments/advocacy engagement is critical for the ownership, participation and trust within the Initiative.

The following **protocol** should be followed by *any* working modalities of Together 2030 when they are looking to form policy positions.

1) Freedom to develop documents needed by each structure of the Initiative

As working modalities are set at different levels, Together 2030 recognizes and supports their freedom to develop specific documents and positions for their engagement.

Positions/Policies should be clear on which modality part of the Initiative has been responsible for drafting and the process established to prepare it.

2) Diversity of voices recognized and common positions highlighted

Together 2030 recognizes that the diversity of organizations in its membership will not always agree on everything – and the promotion and protection of this diversity of voices is a principle for the Initiative.

Specific wording should be added to documents produced on behalf of Together 2030 and its different structures/parts (*See Annex below*).

3) Sign on to documents/letters

As part of a broad civil society movement, Together 2030 is usually invited to sign on to letters and position papers produced by different partners. Together 2030, as an Initiative, will only sign on to documents in which its Core Group and/or Secretariat or delegated working modality was directly engaged on drafting and are in line with the main principles, priorities and positions of the Initiative.

Together 2030 will only sign on to position papers/letters drafted by other networks, alliances or partners if the Core Group considers it to be appropriate and strategic to the objectives of the Initiative and if there are no objections within the Core Group. In those cases, the Secretariat or member of the Core Group will circulate the letter/paper and present an explanation of why Together 2030 should join it. At least **2 working days**, with due consideration to time zones should be provided for a non-objection from members of the Core Group.



The Together 2030 Secretariat may support the dissemination of “sign on” letters to the Together 2030 members if the content is considered in line with the work of the Initiative. It should make it clear that organizations will be signing on in their individual capacity and not on behalf of Together 2030.

4) Position papers and policies issued on behalf of Together 2030 Structures

Position papers and policies issued by different working modalities of Together 2030 should express clearly the process by which the text was developed and which structure is responsible for its content.

A list of organizations engaging on the working modality should also be provided as well as a clarification about diversity of opinion/views and the recognition that being engaged on the consultations does not mean that organisations agree with the full content expressed in the papers (*See Annex below*).

5) Together 2030 Official Position Papers and policies

In order for a document to be considered an official policy of Together 2030, it must meet the following criteria:

- a. Have been circulated to the Together 2030 Google Group, inviting feedback from the whole Initiative for at least 15 days and, if time permits, being opened for a second round of comments.
- b. Be signed off by consensus by the Core Group.
- c. If there is strong opposition on a specific point, the Core Group may decide that a vote is necessary. In this case, the document should be signed off by simple majority of the Core Group.
- d. When reviewing position papers, members of the Core Group should consider the main priorities and positions of Together 2030 as a whole and not of their individual organisations in particular.
- e. Documents should be presented to the sign off of the Core Group with at least **5 working days** to allow for proper review.

6) Review of this protocol

This protocol may be revised by the Core Group to reflect changes in Together 2030 governance and working modalities.

Annex 1. Protocol to be added in Together 2030 Position Papers

- **For Documents issued on behalf of specific structures:**

At the end of the paper, add the following:



This paper is issued on behalf of (insert name of relevant Together 2030 working modality). The original draft was produced by (insert details of the process undertaken to produce this paper, including consultations, reviews, how it was finalized, etc).

Add list of organizations that belong to the working modality signing the document. Those organizations, as members of the (insert name of relevant Together 2030 working modality), 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.

(If considered appropriate): Thanks go to (insert names of individuals who did drafting / redrafting work, their organisation and country).

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.

- **For Documents issued on behalf of whole Initiative:**

At the end of the paper, add the following:

This paper is issued on behalf of Together 2030. The text was produced by (insert details of the process undertaken to produce this paper, including consultations, reviews, how it was finalized, etc).

The final version was signed off unanimously / by a majority (delete as appropriate) of the Together 2030 Core Group.

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