

TOGETHER
2030

Together 2030: Building the foundations for connected efforts

Activities Report

December 2015 – October 2016

From policy to action

www.together2030.org

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Foreword from the Together 2030 Core Group

The engagement of civil society actors around the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld)¹ and the SDGs started way before their adoption, in September 2015. Years earlier, concerted and diversified efforts have taken place, engaging non-governmental partners around the world in different shapes of partnerships - from Campaigns to Working Groups, from Coalitions to Networks and Alliances. The main objective was to see governments at the highest level committing to a long-term, inclusive, environmentally oriented and transformative agenda that could promote the changes needed to improve lives, fulfill human rights, protect the environment, empower children, young people and women and leave no one behind, particularly those furthest behind.

The 2030 Agenda requires significant engagement from civil society organizations if it is to be successfully implemented and the SDGs achieved. That is why we joined forces to establish and propose [Together 2030](http://www.together2030.org)² in December 2015, soon after the UN Sustainable Development Summit. We considered it essential to maintain and expand spaces for the coordination and exchange amongst civil society actors and to support them in holding their governments and other stakeholders - including ourselves - accountable for the implementation of the SDGs.

Together 2030 seeks to empower and strengthen collective civil society engagement with the new 2030 Agenda, and ensure space at the national, regional and international levels for civil society to engage in implementation and accountability processes. We have been impressed with the energy and interest from civil society from all over the world to track progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As we approach our first year, Together 2030 has already mobilized more than 450 organizations from more than 87 countries and have implemented a series of concrete actions. We want to keep creating opportunities for them to connect and move from policy to action at the national, regional and global levels.

This short report presents highlights of the achievements of Together 2030. It also introduces priorities, opportunities and challenges for the next phase of the Initiative.

The need is clear. The interest is evident. The space is set up. Now we need to gather more forces and capacity to continue promoting the changes we so strongly advocated for so they can turn into reality for the most vulnerable and furthest left behind. Together.

The Together 2030 Core Group of founding organizations:

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¹<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

²www.together2030.org

Introduction

Together 2030 is a global, action-oriented initiative aiming to generate and share knowledge on 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 new Agenda.

This report outlines the main activities and successes of the Initiative since its launching, in December 2015 until October 2016 and flags priorities, opportunities and challenges for the next phase. It presents the profile, structure and actions undertaken by Together 2030 in its first year.

Together 2030 - A Snapshot

Despite being a new initiative, Together 2030 has already some identified comparative advantages for the promotion of civil society engagement:

- Mobilization of a great number of organizations (**450** as of October 2016) from **87** countries)
- Most participating organizations are from developing countries (**71%** as of October 2016).
- Presence at the national, regional and global level and the capacity of sharing information and mobilizing voices at all those levels.
- The work is focused on the delivery of Agenda 2030 as a “package” – universal, interlinked and not only on the SDGs or specific themes.
- We aim at - and have experience in setting up engagement systems that are open, inclusive and participatory.
- We assumed the task from the moment in which the process of the Agenda 2030 implementation is taking its first steps.
- Evident interest and energy from members from all over the world to engage and contribute.

Setting up a new global Initiative

Together 2030 was set up in December 2015 as a self-organized civil society initiative to promote national implementation and track progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was a huge amount of interest in this new initiative and membership grew very quickly. The Initiative developed during the year and, as of October 2016, **450 organizations** had joined Together 2030 from **87 countries**. Together 2030 has a strong presence from southern organizations, 71% of the members are based in developing countries. Additionally, considering the objective of tracking a universal agenda, there is also a clear interest

Our Unifying Vision:
The commitments of the 2030 Agenda are made a reality, with civil society contributing in a meaningful way



from international organizations and from those based in developed countries – 29% of members.

A key concern was around the ability of the initiative to meet the needs of the large and varied number of member organizations. Many members, and indeed the Core Group made up of the founding members, are former members of the Beyond 2015 Campaign, which focused on the advocacy to set up the new sustainable development agenda. This report outlines how the initiative has sought to support members in a way that makes the most of the resources available.

- **Together 2030 is about creating and strengthening capacities.** Together 2030 aims at contributing to overcoming the huge disparities within the capacities of civil society organizations all over the world, and to support civil society to play a full and meaningful role in the implementation and follow up of Agenda 2030 at all levels.
- **Together 2030 is about action.** As an action-oriented initiative, Together 2030 focus on ensuring that civil society organizations and stakeholders are able to share knowledge and experiences of implementation and accountability; work together on global, regional and national advocacy and track whether commitments made on Agenda 2030 are effectively turned into action.

Who can join Together 2030?

Together 2030 is open to civil society, non-governmental, non-profit stakeholders around the world. It is entirely voluntary, informal and based on need; it is action oriented and members are asked to contribute to joint work.

Members are asked to support the key goals of Together 2030:

- 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.

Our Strategy

For the second phase of Together 2030, starting in January 2017, the proposed strategy is to focus on:

One - Support national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through:

Promoting diverse and legitimate civil society voice at the national level; generating and transferring knowledge on implementation and accountability including through information sharing and developing policy positions; and developing communities of practice within global civil society, and facilitating the development of cross-border civil society networks

Two - Promote accountability of the commitments through:

Supporting and calling for meaningful participation of civil society, including the poorest and most marginalized, at all levels

Three - Develop a respected and recognized voice at the global level, through:

Allowing the participation of civil society organizations with regional and international review mechanisms, especially the High Level Political Forum.

Creating spaces for engagement

Together 2030 was started by a small but diverse group of organizations which have a long experience working on the advocacy around the definition of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and also share a strong commitment towards open, creative and coordinated spaces where civil society actors can join forces towards action.

Those organizations comprise the “Core Group” of founders, which currently lead the development and guide the Initiative. Two of the founding members (Sightsavers and World Vision) provide core financial contribution for its operation, which allows the hiring of a staff heading the Secretariat among other strategic support.

Together 2030 was founded by the organisations who make up the “Core Group”, comprised by: [CEPEI](http://cepei.org/)³ (Colombia); [Justice, Development and Peace Commission – JDPC Ijebu-Ode](http://www.jdpcijejuode.org/)⁴ (Nigeria); [Philippine Social Enterprise Network](http://philsocialenterprisenetwork.com/)⁵ (Philippines); [Save Matabeleland](http://www.savematabelelandcoalition.org/)⁶ (Zimbabwe); [Sightsavers](http://www.sightsavers.org/)⁷ (Global) and [World Vision](http://www.worldvision.org/)⁸ (Global).

The Core Group established an **international Secretariat** who is responsible for managing the daily operations of the initiative, coordinating and mobilizing its membership. The Secretariat is accountable to the Core Group.

Working Groups and Task Forces have been established to conduct expert and coordinated work within the Initiative. They are open to all members and are responsible for specific deliverables or to follow the implementation of the Agenda in different levels. Specific terms of reference are established for each group, defining objectives, deliverables and duration of the work. A [protocol](#)⁹ for the definition of policies has been established, setting up the parameters and procedures for positions to be drafted and agreed by the Together 2030 and its working modalities.

The Groups are also spaces for information and intel sharing, networking and joint action.

³<http://cepei.org/>

⁴<http://www.jdpcijejuode.org/>

⁵<http://philsocialenterprisenetwork.com/>

⁶<http://www.savematabelelandcoalition.org/>

⁷<http://www.sightsavers.org/>

⁸<http://www.worldvision.org/>

⁹<http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FINAL-Together-2030-Protocol-for-Policy-Development-April-2016.pdf>

Three working groups/task forces have been established so far:

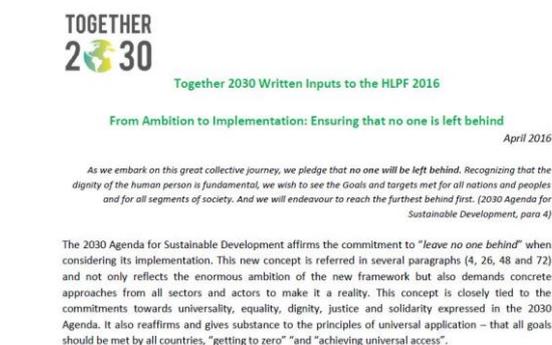
Global Advocacy Working Group

This Working Group is responsible for coordinating and leading Together 2030 engagement on global processes related to the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda. It creates and advocates for spaces that ensure that civil society perspectives and experiences from national level implementation can feed into the HLPF and other global level structures. It is responsible, among other issues:

- To gather and share information with the Initiative about global processes related to the implementation and accountability of Agenda 2030,
- For keeping the Initiative informed about main opportunities for advancing Together 2030 priorities at the global level,
- To promote and deliver concrete actions on behalf of Together 2030 at the global level.

This group has already mobilized more than 100 members of the Initiative and has been responsible for critical advocacy engagement of Together 2030. Some of the deliverables include:

- **"From Ambition to Implementation: Ensuring that no one is left behind"**¹⁰ - This paper has been included as part of the 2016 High Level Political Forum [official documents](#) and translated into the six UN official languages¹¹.
- **Essential Elements for an ambitious, inclusive and participatory follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda**¹². Defined Together 2030 positions regarding the intergovernmental negotiations on the global follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

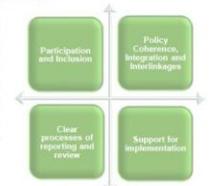


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April 2016

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.



- **Together 2030 Reaction to Zero Draft Resolution on Follow up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level**¹³ - A response from Together 2030 to the first draft of the UN resolution that sets the basis for global follow up of the 2030 Agenda.

¹⁰<http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Final-Review-T30-Written-Inputs-to-the-HLPF-April-2016.pdf>

¹¹http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/2&Lang=E

¹²<http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Essential-Elements-on-Follow-up-and-Review-Together-2030-FINAL-April-2016.pdf>

¹³<http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FINAL-Together-2030-Reaction-to-Zero-Draft-Follow-up-and-Review-Agenda-2030-Resolution-May-2016.pdf>

The Global Level - Engaging with the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The HLPF is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As such, it forms the focus of our international advocacy. Together 2030 is a member of the Steering Group of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism¹⁴, which coordinates the participation of civil society and other stakeholders at the HLPF.

Together 2030 was active at its first HLPF, in 2016, having organized a side-event, briefings to its members, promoted advocacy messages and created spaces for members to gather and strategize. A [report](#)¹⁵ has been prepared showcasing Together 2030 participation at the HLPF.



Together 2030 at the HLPF 2016:

- A **preparatory webinar** and two face-to-face briefings during the HLPF were organized for members of Together 2030. Two informal meetings were also organized during the HLPF to provide a space for members to share information and intel.
- **Debriefing webinars** (two in English and one in Spanish) were organized after the HLPF to review outcomes and reflections on the HLPF.
- Together 2030, as a member of the **Steering Group** of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) Mechanism, engaged directly on the coordination of MGoS at the HLPF.
- Our **written contributions**¹⁶ were added to the official report from stakeholders to the HLPF and were drafted in a collaborative effort conducted within the Global Advocacy Working Group.



segments of the HLPF agenda.

- Together 2030 facilitated **speaking opportunities** for its members at official sessions of the HLPF. A transparent process was set up for members to submit their interest in speaking at a particular HLPF session. The eight statements delivered on behalf of the Initiative were drafted based on the joint written contributions from Together 2030 to the HLPF.
- Members of Together 2030 also spoke at official

¹⁴<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf>

¹⁵http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/HLPFReport_FinalEn-2.pdf

¹⁶<http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Final-Review-T30-Written-Inputs-to-the-HLPF-April-2016.pdf>

- Together 2030 facilitated spaces for members to **work in collaboration** with other groups on the preparation of statements to be presented during the national review presentations.



- Mailing lists and a *whatsapp* group were established to **facilitate communication** between members during the HLPF.
- Together 2030 actively engaged on **Twitter** previously and during the HLPF by posting invitations, updating on the Ministerial Declaration process, and during the HLPF tweeting in real time quotes and pictures from the sessions and other activities. The initiative gained 111 new twitter followers during the HLPF period. Twitter traffic

increased significantly with 2,344 profile visits; 156 mentions and lastly, 41.4K tweet impressions.

- **Together 2030 side-event:** *“Are we already left behind? The role of civil society and stakeholders on national reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*, co-sponsored by Colombia, Sierra Leone and the Philippines and organised in partnership with CEPEI, Sightsavers, World Vision International, Justice Development Peace Commission, Save Matabeleland Coalition, Philippines Social Enterprise Network, Participate Network, Bond, and the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment.



Regional/National Structures Task Force

The implementation of global commitments happens at national, sub-national and local levels. For this reason, Together 2030 prioritizes the engagement with organizations and coalitions focused or based at those levels. Before setting up operational structures at the national and regional levels, Together 2030 organized a Task Force to gather inputs from members about the shape and focus of those partnerships. The Regional/National Structures task force was responsible for promoting discussions and presenting recommendations on how Together 2030 should establish its regional and national structures. The Task Force has finalized a set of **[Recommendations for National and Regional Structures - Together 2030](http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Recommendations-for-National-and-Regional-Structures-Together-2030-March-2016.pdf)**¹⁷.

Those recommendations are currently being considered by the Core Group for action. The mailing list is being kept for information sharing and potential follow up consultations.

¹⁷ <http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Recommendations-for-National-and-Regional-Structures-Together-2030-March-2016.pdf>

Principles Document Task Force

To properly reflect the priorities of its Members, Together 2030 should be guided by a set of principles that are agreed by all. This Task Force was responsible for drafting the first document of principles for Together 2030.

This [document](#)¹⁸ encompass the main values for the joint work as well as for Together 2030 in its efforts towards the implementation and accountability of Agenda 2030. The principles document proposed by the Task Force was opened for the whole membership of Together 2030 for comments and review before being finalized.

From Policy to Action

As an action-oriented Initiative, Together 2030 prioritizes establishing spaces and opportunities for exchange of information and membership interaction.

A few examples include:

- **Phase 1 Website** (<http://www.together2030.org>): Developed to generate an online “presence” of Together 2030 and to start the collection and sharing of information about the Initiative in three languages (English, Spanish and French). A Phase 2 of the website is currently being developed, with improved features and structure, and will be launched soon.
- **Webinars**: Several webinars have been organized already, including four “introductory webinars” (two in English, one in Spanish and one in French) and nine “implementation webinars”. Summaries and recordings are available at the website. “Implementation webinars” are organized in partnership with other civil society groups and counts on the participation of external guests. Invitations are disseminated broadly, beyond Together 2030 membership.

**Voice and Ownership:
Governance Survey**

In September 2016, nine months after the launching of Together 2030, the Core Group invited the membership to share their thoughts and ideas regarding **governance and decision making** within the Initiative. 73 members replied to the survey in English, Spanish and French, which provided strategic inputs regarding the next steps for an improved governance for Together 2030.

Introductory Webinars

The “**introductory webinars**” have been an opportunity to share and discuss the ideas, structures and plans related to Together 2030 with its members as well as to discuss action proposals and agree on next steps for the initiative. The webinars focus on sharing information and activities proposals as well as to hear from members on their views and recommendations for Together 2030.

Four introductory webinars have been already organized: 2 in English, 1 in Spanish and 1 in French. Recordings and presentations are available at the Together 2030 website.

¹⁸ <http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FINAL-Together-2030-Principles-Document-October-2016.pdf>

Implementation Webinars

The “**Implementation Series**” webinars provide members of Together 2030 with an opportunity to discuss technical and political aspects related to the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda at global, regional and national levels. The Webinars aim at bringing voices from different levels and sectors to share their experiences, concerns, and recommendations around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Nine “Implementation series” webinars have been organized from December 2015 - September 2016:

- **January:** *From Policy to Action: Are countries ready to start implementing Agenda 2030 by January 2016?*
- **February:** *Measuring up to the ambition: setting up the SDG Indicators* (organized in partnership with the CSO Indicators Task Force)
- **April:** *Next Steps on follow up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda* (organized in partnership with the TAP Network)
- **May:** *The role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* Organized in partnership with the African CSO Working Group, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) - This webinar was accessible for persons with disabilities through live International Sign interpretation and Closed Captioning (CART).
- **June:** *Delivering on the promise: how do we scale up collaboration for the SDGs*, supported by Together 2030 and organized by the Partnership Initiative and World Vision.
- **July:** *HLPF Webinars.* One webinar was organized prior to the HLPF for members attending the HLPF as well as 3 webinars post HLPF (two in English, one in Spanish) in order to debrief and provide members with relevant info on outcomes and also reflections around the HLPF.

- **Mailing lists** - A general mailing list has been set for communication from the Secretariat with the Initiative as well as specific mailing lists for the different structures.
- **Blog**¹⁹ - Members of Together 2030 are invited to contribute blog posts about their work, experiences and analysis on the implementation and follow up of Agenda 2030. The blog accepts contributions in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. As of October 2016, 29 posts were published, accounting for 5,231 views and 3,065 visitors.
- **Social Media** - Together 2030 is active on Twitter (@Together_2030) having already mobilized 776 followers by October 2016. The Initiative uses this channel to share information, update on the work of the Initiative and to advocate on issues related to the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda. As an example, a mobilization was organized during the **High Level Segment of the UN General Assembly** in September and proposed tweets in English, Spanish and French were shared with Together 2030 Members asking them to directly call upon world leaders for renewed

¹⁹<https://together2030.wordpress.com/>

commitments towards the implementation of the SDGs. This mobilization generated 5,200 impressions, 1,004 profile visits, 355 mentions and added 73 new followers to the Together 2030 profile.

Perceptions Survey: Is civil society already being left behind?



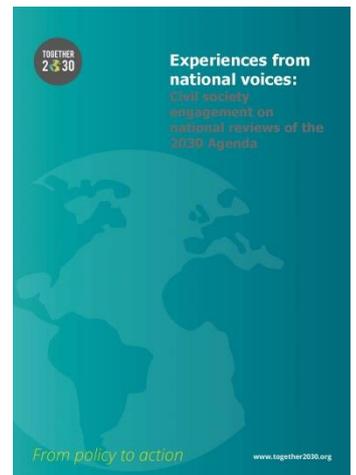
In April 2016, Together 2030 undertook a “**perceptions survey**” with civil society organizations, focusing on countries that have volunteered to review their national implementation during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July. The survey also engaged civil society and stakeholders from other countries, as the objective was to get a sense about how information was being shared with those actors; if they were aware of the engagement of their governments at the national review process and if spaces had been created for their engagement and participation.

The perceptions survey was based on a limited number of questions; issued in English, Spanish and French and was shared broadly with civil society mailing lists from March 21 to April 11 2016. A total of **265 responses** were received: 186 to the English questionnaire; 45 in Spanish and 34 in French. The [report](#)²⁰ of the survey was broadly disseminated by Together 2030.

Experiences from national voices: civil society engagement on national reviews of the 2030 Agenda

Following up on the outcomes of the Survey, Together 2030 coordinated the drafting of a [report](#)²¹ highlighting case studies on the work being done by civil society organizations around the world to engage with follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A set of **12 case studies** from all regions showcase civil society engagement and bring some insights on the challenges and opportunities brought by the SDGs.

The report includes studies from the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Norway, Mexico and Colombia.**



²⁰ <http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Report-Together-2030-Perception-Survey-April-2016.pdf>

²¹ http://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Case_Study_Compilation_FINAL_DRAFT_styles-1.pdf

Next steps on connected efforts

Setting up a global Initiative demands a strong commitment, passion and joint work. During this initial phase, **Together 2030** focused on setting up the basis for its membership, creating spaces for interaction, positioning itself politically, producing reports and policy positions and undertaking discussions and options for an improved governance structure.

The Core Group is currently reviewing the outcomes of a survey conducted with Together 2030 members about its governance structure and engagement spaces. A set of concrete actions will be proposed in order to improve and expand opportunities for members to participate in decision making to strengthen ownership and engagement.

A successful global Initiative also demands the ownership, participation and contribution of its members.

We will be counting on our members to support and actively engage in the implementation of this strategy and to continue making Together 2030 a space for sharing, learning and, most importantly, joint action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



A successful global Initiative also demands the ownership, participation and contribution of its members.

This report was prepared by Naiara Costa, Together 2030 International Secretariat, edited, revised and approved by the Together 2030 Core Group on October 2016.





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