



Together 2030 Remarks to the *Draft Elements for the Ministerial Declaration of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017*

May 2017

Together 2030 would like to congratulate the co-facilitators of the 2017 HLPF Ministerial Declaration for circulating an “Elements Paper” and the proposed roadmap for the negotiations to Member States and stakeholders. This paper presents some initial comments from **Together 2030**, based on the [written inputs](#) submitted by the Initiative for the HLPF 2017.

Two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the HLPF Ministerial Declaration should go beyond the reaffirmation of commitments and be a **call for action** for implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs into national plans and budgets.

Together 2030 expects Member States to uphold the principles and participation commitments expressed in the 2030 Agenda as well as to expand on the open and transparent practices undertaken for the negotiations of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration in previous years.

1. Remarks to the Elements Paper

Together 2030 recognizes the comprehensive approach and supports the structure proposed for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. The remarks below reflect on elements that we consider were not included in the paper or could be reinforced in the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration.

Introductory part

- The Ministerial Declaration should reinforce the **political will on the ground** for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- It is critical to reaffirm the **universal, integrated, indivisible and balanced character** of the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as the principle of **leaving no one behind**.
- The Ministerial Declaration should reaffirm that poverty will only be eradicated if prosperity is equitably shared, social protection is a reality and if the planet is protected. Furthermore, it should emphasize that there are no second chances for girls and boys as they are disproportionately affected by poverty.
- Reaffirm the role of “**all countries and all stakeholders**, acting in collaborative partnership” to implement the 2030 Agenda (Agenda 2030, Preamble).
- Recognize that the current global political and economic pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity and the impacts of climate change curtail universal enjoyment of the human rights to life, health, food and water and sanitation, thereby undermining sustainable development.

Framing the declaration, look at the entire agenda through the lens of the theme, highlighting interlinkages between the SDGs

- The Ministerial Declaration should reinforce the will of Member States to generate **effective and inclusive institutions for SDG delivery** add that while voluntary, countries report need to outline on steps taken in this regard.
- The Ministerial Declaration should focus on four main themes: *1) Poverty eradication that leaves no one behind; 2) Prosperity shared in a people-centered economy; 3) A planet that is protected; and (4) Institutions at all levels that are participatory, transparent and accountable.*
- To uphold the principles established at the 2030 Agenda, especially that on ‘leaving no one behind’ and ‘reaching the furthest behind first’, **references to people should be inclusive of all**. We recommend expanding the formulation on para 25 of the 2030 Agenda: *“All people, irrespective of sex, age, race, ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations...”*.
- Member States should commit to set up and strengthen clear, open, coherent, transparent and regular spaces for the participation of stakeholders in the planning, implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda at all levels, with particular emphasis on citizens participation including children, young people and women.

Progress to-date in particular with regard to the 6 SDGs under review, as well as SDG 17

- The Ministerial Declaration should welcome the first round of thematic reviews at the HLPF and task the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to examine the process undertaken for the reviews and present recommendations to strengthen them in following years.
- Recognize the official inputs brought by the regional fora for sustainable development and encourage their role in sharing good practices, reviewing gaps and discussing policy recommendations for the effective implementation of the SDGs.
- Recognize the contributions of the Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) organized by United Nations Entities, including those organized in collaboration with the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism, and call upon them to continue this practice, in an inclusive and participatory manner, for the following years and for EGM outcomes to feed into HLPF discussions.

Gaps and challenges in particular with regards to the 6 SDGs under review, as well as SDG 17

- The Ministerial Declaration should highlight the importance of protecting nature and ensuring equitable access to environmental resources as a means to support vulnerable and marginalized groups’ continued enjoyment of their rights to life, health, food and water.
- The impacts of climate change on poverty eradication, hunger and sustainable development

must be reflected in the HLPF Ministerial Declaration.

- Member States must commit to promote and exchange experiences on which broader measures of progress (beyond GDP) are being established (as per para 48) and how economic growth is being decoupled from resource consumption and environmental degradation (Target 8.4).
- The Ministerial Declaration should call upon all member states to prioritize, provide due attention and support to the development of national statistical systems to measure sustainable development, including through capacity building.
- The Ministerial Declaration should encourage governments to explore the contribution of non-official data produced by various stakeholders –including civil society organizations –to complement and enhance official data, as well as to support data availability gap. Scientific standards and guidelines can be set up to ensure it aligns with official standards.

Means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology, and innovation

- The Ministerial Declaration must reflect clear commitments for the implementation of concrete budgeted policies that promote women’s rights and gender equality, children’s rights, overcoming barriers for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, migrants, minority ethnic groups, young and older persons and others.
- Member States should commit to promote a prosperity approach that benefits the whole society and not only the richest, as is the current trend.

Partnerships

- The Ministerial Declaration should call for the HLPF to become a space where **global principles** and the outline for multi-stakeholder partnerships are established.
- The HLPF ministerial declaration should encourage governments to invite civil society and stakeholders to partner with them in developing capacity building and awareness programs on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- The Ministerial Declaration should recognize the impact that civil society groups have demonstrated through the sector’s high degree of responsiveness and flexibility to changing political and social landscapes, their ability to stimulate action through public engagement, and their capacity of providing a voice to a collective set of values that is deeply rooted in communities.

Follow-up, review, monitoring

- Member States should request that the HLPF proactively builds on existing mechanisms and functional bodies to deliver on its mandate of policy coherence, particularly on thematic issues. The Ministerial Declaration could task the United Nations Secretary-General to assess gaps in existing mechanisms and identify which population groups are not properly reviewed vis-a-vis SDG progress and ask for recommendations on how to define proper mechanisms

to overcome such gaps.

- The Ministerial Declaration should encourage Member States to state as early as possible their plans to volunteer to present national reviews at the HLPF, strengthening the follow up cycle and planning.
- Member States should re-commit to follow up and review processes that are *‘open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and [that] support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders.* (Para 74, d). Additionally, the Ministerial Declaration should reflect the commitment of Member States to engage civil society and stakeholders on follow up and review processes at all levels and to promote broad, cross-sectoral and country-wide consultations as part of the countries’ accountability to their citizens.
- Member States should also commit to protect and facilitate enabling environments for the inclusion and participation of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women, children, youth and older persons, persons with disabilities and others to engage in decisions that affect their own lives.
- The Ministerial Declaration should reaffirm the role of the HLPF on maximizing opportunities for peer and mutual learning, discussing and agreeing on recommendations to address challenges and seize opportunities for a strengthened implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda calls on major groups and other relevant stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda and this is still a missing piece of the global follow up and review architecture. The Ministerial Declaration should request the President of ECOSOC to lead a process to establish clear and meaningful mechanisms – beyond online platforms - to collect, publicize and analyze reports on the contribution of civil society and stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.
- At the Ministerial Declaration, Member States should commit to make the HLPF venues fully accessible for persons with disabilities as well as for children.

“Participation by stakeholders is both a means and an end in the context of Agenda 2030. As a means, participation allows the expertise and contributions of all groups to speed up and enhance the quality of delivery on the SDGs, delivering better policies with greater support and ownership. Participation is also an end. Participation and inclusion at all levels are part of the goals and targets themselves and a space for accountability and public scrutiny of commitments is fundamental to follow up and review.” Together 2030 written inputs to the HLPF 2017

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