

## Together 2030 Second Anniversary – December 2017 OPEN LETTER FROM THE CORE GROUP TO THE TOGETHER 2030 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Colleagues in **Together 2030**,

We are two years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and are celebrating the **second birthday of the Together 2030 initiative**. As our [Annual Activities Report](#) outlines, there is a lot of uncertainty in the world and many of our assumptions are being challenged.

However, we would argue that the **2030 Agenda anticipated many of the current challenges**: it is a global but nationally-led agenda, in a time when multilateral solutions are being doubted; it calls for women's empowerment and gender equality at a time when serious setbacks are taking place; it has fighting inequality at its heart, pledging to 'leave no one behind' and to reach the furthest behind first at a time when the world has never been more unequal; it is a universal agenda, when climate change threatens all countries; and it is indivisible, at a time when governments are tempted to pick and choose. These principles are not new, but they come together in one document that begins by stating, *'all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.'*

In short, two years on and despite the many challenges we face, the 2030 Agenda remains our best blueprint for progress. This is indeed not time to lose faith, but to **redouble our efforts geared towards the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**.

As the [Core Group of Together 2030](#) and fellow members, we want first of all to **thank you** for your active engagement and continued support in nurturing and advancing our collective initiative. We have attached the [Annual Activities Report](#), which outlines all the amazing projects that Together 2030 has nurtured and supported: the Perceptions Survey, the engagement at the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the recommendations to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Guidelines, the webinars and many more. Together 2030 bases its existence on the initiative of and partnership among its members. The [Activities Report](#) demonstrates how effective and result-oriented we have been at working together. Truly, we deserve to give ourselves a pat on the back. **CONGRATS!**

And yet, in the spirit of re-doubling our efforts, there are **many more things coming up** later this year and in 2018, mobilizing several partners, and which will need more of your support and active engagement, including (but not limited to):

- *The activities celebrating our 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary – look out for announcements below and during this week!*
- *A new handbook for CSOs and stakeholders on how to engage with Parliamentarians around the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in partnership with UNDP, World Vision, Global Fokus, Sightsavers and others;*
- *A mapping of active national CSOs SDG coalitions, through a partnership with the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment;*

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- A quick guide for CSOs and stakeholders on how to engage on Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), in a partnership with CAFOD and others;
- A comprehensive review of the 2017 VNR reports, in partnership with CCIC, Bond UK, IFP, A4SD and CAFOD;
- The third and revamped annual Perceptions Survey, through our partnership with the Newcastle University;
- The preparatory and advocacy work around the [UN High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) 2018](#).
- Open webinars and experience exchange.
- And much more!

As you may be already aware, Together 2030 has no external funding. All our resources and capacities come from members – thank you! If you would like to discuss **how you could financially support the activities of the initiative**, then please let us know! You can either **support an individual project** or **provide core funding** for the operationalization of Together 2030. We have a policy not to ask for funding as a condition of membership, but our collective efforts depend on those who are willing to share their resources by contributing to the work of the wider initiative. If you would like to discuss a specific partnership, do not hesitate to reach out to the Core Group members or to the International Secretariat (see our contacts [here](#)).

**Together 2030** is one of the many strategic initiatives that are needed if we are to see the 2030 Agenda become a reality. The [Activities Report](#) outlines how we have achieved so much with very limited human and financial resources, yet much more needs to be done: from next year's VNRs, the Financing for Development Conference and the many high-level meetings to the public awareness raising, the national planning processes and the day-to-day implementation of the agenda at country level, **we need to see the pace accelerating on the implementation of this critical agenda**. That will be our call in 2018. We want to once more state unambiguously: we need more synergies! We need more collective work! we look forward to working with you over the coming year for a Together 2030 Initiative ever strong and purposeful!

## HAPPY SECOND ANNIVERSARY TO YOU ALL!

Thank you,

[The Together 2030 Core Group](#)

<i>Andrew Griffiths</i> Sightsavers (Global)	<i>Arellys Bellorini</i> World Vision (Global)	<i>Busani Sibindi</i> Save Matabeland (Zimbabwe)	<i>Gomer Padong</i> Philippine Social Enterprise Network (Philippines)
<i>John Patrick Ngoyi</i> JDPCI Jebu-Ode (Nigeria)	<i>Philipp Schönrock</i> CEPEI (Colombia)	<i>Ola Abu Alghaib</i> Leonard Cheshire Disability (Global)	<i>Pauline Lambou</i> Leading Women of Africa, (Cameroon)