

Preparing for the UN HL Political Forum Webinar 1 July 2019

Together 2030 and the TAP Network = co-hosts 84 participants

9:00 – 9:05 Welcome and review of the Agenda

Facilitator: Andrew Griffiths, Head of Advocacy, Sightsavers

9:05 – 9:15 Session 1 – The HLPF 2019: Main issues under review and current landscape

Arelys Bellorini, UN Representative World Vision

Importance of the two parts of the HLPF (annual one in July under ECOSOC and the Summit in September under the GA)

Two sections: SDGs under review and VNRs during second week. By the end of this session, more than 140 countries will have submitted reviews.

SG's Report on SDG Implementation – a preview of achievements.

July HLPF has 3 moments:

1. Set of SDGs under review concluding full cycle of all the SDGs including SDG #16 – huge enabler
2. SG will present his first Global Sustainable Report – every 4 years; developed by independent group of over 100 scientists
3. Theme: what will be the way forward of HLPF of tracking progress of SDGs? Many member states have their views. Big topic will be review of HLPF agenda according to GA resolution. Includes setting of a new cycle and a review of this first cycle eg inputs from UN functional bodies.

Major issue: wake up call to international community which is lagging behind and relapsing on some of the SDGs. Need to accelerate action. Draft is calling for a Decade of SDGs.

9:15 – 9:25 Discussions

Kate Donovan: asked about SDG Implementation Report – preliminary report has been out for several weeks. Arelys: SG will present his report during Ministerial Segment and will be launched in September at the HLPF Summit.

9:25 – 9:50 Session 2: Thematic Reviews – What should we expect? How to focus on thematic reviews without jeopardizing integrity of the Agenda? SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17 will be discussed next week.

Gomer Padong, Director, Social Enterprise Network, Philippine Social Enterprise Network re **SDG #8 economic growth**

Priority areas from consultations in the Asia Pacific and in the Philippines eg red flags on implementation; decoupling growth and impact on environment; segments influenced eg youth, women, PWD, older persons. Beginning points:

1. Priority action – setting of institutional mechanisms given SDG's breath; requiring integrated action of multiple ministries, local governments, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, private sector, etc.
2. Building improve key labor markets eg anti-discrimination; occupational health; collective bargaining, etc. strengthening institutions
3. Collection of data to monitor decent growth
4. Development of legislation and policies to prevention of victims of forced labor
5. Designing coherent strategies for transition from informal to formal economies ILO #204 adopted in 2015 guidelines eg improved access to credit, extending social protection
6. Step up investments in human capital and capabilities – education for all SDG #4; investment in lifelong learning. Support young people to navigate school to work
7. Policies – economic prosperity, urgency to transition to green economy

Discussion:

Christina asked about report from EGM on SDG #8? Response: He didn't attend EMG 8. He will ask about this and will share with Margie if there is such a report.

Annisa Triyanti, UN Major Group of Youth and Children on **SDG #13 Climate**

Report on Climate Synergy Conference that took place in April co-hosted by UN DESA. She represented MGoS and Sendai group.

Developed position paper prior to the meeting to ensure a targeted advocacy for conference outcome. Report from WMO shows climate change issues and underlining risks.

1. Integrated and cohesive approach that is necessary
2. Addressing underlying risk to identify root causes and placing people at the heart of strategy -
3. Integrated loss & damage needs – Paris Agreement has addressed this. Move to more pro-active issues.
4. Climate change is linked to human rights – eg forced migration
5. Need for multi-level governance approach recognizing their different roles in partnerships with multi-stakeholders; avoid silos
6. Financing – more transformative financing; moving away from donor driven to needs driven.

Outcome of the conference – available on UNDESA website

We send our position paper as a formal input. Happy that many issues were included in outcome eg:

1. 1.5 degrees as a target –
2. How to minimize trade offs
3. Stronger science and technology interface eg through GSDR and TFM
4. Partnership and network – human rights approach; deal with conflict areas and marginalized communities
5. VNR should highlight interlinkage of issues

6. Demand multi-level governance to ensure that all join discussion; be involved through monitoring and evaluation; have joint indicators from different SDGs.

Opportunities for next HLPF:

1. What are trade-offs, synergies, co-benefits to ensure integrated approach

2. EGM 13
3. HLPF ECOSOC-GA
4. SAMOA Pathways
5. GPDRR Climate Summit
6. COP25
7. Send formal input and maximize speaking roles and partnering with each other in civil society

Discussion:

Did you look into role that children can play to stay below 1.5 degrees and in policy development? Response: involvement of youth and children eg street demonstrations aimed at convincing governments to take action. Now we have activism in our blood to express our concerns and worries for the future. I see children and youth are still at the center. It is still on the level of words not in terms of inclusion in a meaningful way. Faisal: comprehensive monitoring framework is needed. Question from Mark Alejo: asked about global south representation. Response: She came from the Global South. From UN engagement that she has attended, there are efforts to bring voices from Global South to the table and to listen to their demands but it is still could be more. Global South is very complex and diverse in terms of issues and challenges. Many issues need a lot more fair exploration eg in conflict areas should be given a dedicated space. UN agencies have tried their best. More meaningful participation post meetings.

Rosina Pobe, Disability Rights, SightSavers re SDG #10

She is in Ghana. She attended EGM held in April in Geneva. She represented NGOs and made a presentation on some of the work that members are doing and good practices and some of the challenges and some of the recommendations:

1. Government finance social protection programmes
2. Data based assessment
3. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Challenges:

1. Who needs to be at the table – even at the EGM few marginalized groups were represented. Civil society organizations and development partners; evaluating agencies; national governments were identified as main actors.
2. How solutions would need to be implemented to reduce inequalities

Actions and solutions:

1. Legal reforms – eliminate discriminatory laws
2. Invest early in human capital – childhood years is where inequalities begin
3. Support informal sector as it contributes to economies and has enabled millions to rise out of poverty. Transition to formal economy would improve security.
4. Combine universal and targeted measures
5. Need for instituting redistributive policies
6. Need for addressing income floors, social protection; financial inclusion measures

How progress can be monitored:

1. Map and measure inequality – need for data on real issues on the ground; who benefits from interventions.
2. Establishing mutual accountability – information from UN Human Treaty reports – how members can coordinate information not just submitting them but a coordination with outcome recommendations
3. Review mechanism with clear indicators for SDG #10 eg on average income of the bottom 40%

John Romano, Coordinator, TAP Network

Our priority is SDG #16 is under review for the first time in this HLPF cycle. We have learned about gaps, challenges and encouraging signs to look to scale up. TAP is a global network of over 400 civil society groups working on SDG 16 and on accountability. Rome SDG 16 conference was a bit different with a wide range of stakeholders with over 250 participants. It was a big opportunity to talk about where we are and what is next. Many issues discussed in depth. Report to come out shortly.

Civil society: **Rome Civil Society Declaration** on SDG 16+ put together in advance relying on many consultations of partners. Will send a link; find it on TAP website. Looking for endorsements.

1. Outlines key messages and principles of SDG 16
2. Pointed recommendations that need to be accelerated
3. Call to action particularly by civil society
4. Message: we are off track on realizing SDG 16 and 2030 Agenda and are backsliding in some
5. Encouraging signs of progress and what needs to be supported
6. Recommendations: 6 areas – interlinkages for common messages; mobilizing and scaling up commitments and investments by member states; increase capacity building at all levels for governments, UN agencies and civil society; promoting meaningful partnerships; strengthening data, monitoring and accountability.

SDG #16 was a combination of politically sensitive issues. Targets have multiple issues within them for achieving them. Commitments to targets and to SDG 16. Must get governments to tell us what they are doing to advance SDG #16 in their own context. VNRs should be a great way to do this – reviewing progress and identify where it is lacking and commit to improving in them. **TAP collects commitments from civil**

society (over 90) – It is also a mapping exercise. Information on TAP website on how to submit commitments and become a TAP member.

9:50 – 10:00 Discussions

Kathy Kline asked John to talk about the excellent work on the Danish Institute of Human Rights. John: It is great for us to measure SDG 16 and the data to support it and linkages between treaty bodies and mechanisms where member states have already reported. TAP launched in 2016 www.sdg.org on targets and indicators for SDG 16. A new report on access to justice, which details some of those things here: <https://www.justice.sdg16.plus/report>.

10:00 – 10:10 Session 3; Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in 2019 – Tips for taking the most of national reporting at the HLPF

Javier Surasky, Governance Coordinator, Cepei, Think Tank based in Colombia. He is based in Argentina. Based on experience of his and his colleagues. HLPF is an opportunity.

Tips for taking advantage of VNRs:

1. Before HLPF
 - . connect organizations who you want to meet in NYC and schedule your meetings
 - . prepare yourself – read main messages; VNR reports on HLPF website
 - . explore HLPF agenda and decide which events you want to be at including side events that can be more open
2. During HLPF
 - . Can read text of VNR before HLPF; look at complete scene including who is presenting the report (level of representative)
 - . Who is part of the presentation panel eg civil society or only from member state?
 - . What is not said.
 - . Look at 2030 Agenda and see if governments include main principles eg MOI, clear commitments; sharing lessons learned
3. Post HLPF
 - . Look at reports of national reviews – analysis of VNRs

10:10 – 10:20 Discussions

Will follow up post webinar which will be shared later.

Javier was asked about greater involvement of Global South which has limited resources. Response: we are facing lots of problems to have real engagement. Global South is diverse. Tools are on the web that can help to be connect with possible partners to get analysis of presentations given at the HLPF. VNRs are webcast on www.untv.org and are archived.

10:20 – 10:25 Session 4 – Together 2030 at the HLPF – Activities and opportunities for membership

Margie Simo, International Secretariat, Together 2030

Putting together a side event with others on Thursday July 11 from 1:15 – 2:45 pm in CR 1. It is based on a joint principles paper shared a few weeks ago with us. As we have in the past, we will have informal strategy meetings – date and time to be confirmed the first week and second on the second week. Speaking opportunities at official events as part of Other Stakeholder Groups within Major Group and Other Stakeholders. Have not heard yet from DESA about those opportunities. Probably will have one seat in each session to give a statement or ask a question. We will put together a call/google form to see who would like to participate. We have a position paper done by our Advocacy Group and will recirculate it which should be the basis of your question/statement. We have sent a call to find out if you want to be included in our WhatsApp or google group if you will attend the HLPF. We will circulate that invitation with the links to join them. We will share social media package. We have circulated Perception Survey that we do prior to HLPF thanks to New Castle University support. We will extend deadline from today to Wednesday 3 July.

John, TAP Network: Will follow up by email in next few days due to limited time on the call as we have many events – 10 that we are hosting.