

Final remarks from Alessandra Nilo, Gestos- (Was unable to share during Webinar due to audio issues)

1. VNRs should serve as a nationwide construction process. If discussions on HLPF and Agenda 2030 are not binding, they will not lead us to anything. The question is how to make the process more binding so that when arriving at the HLPF there have already been processes and steps undertaken at the country level in order to have greater engagement. In non-democratic countries, we would not have any engagement, so we must deepen the linkage of the SDGs processes and the processes of declining democracies
2. Local and national spaces - we need to have much more capacity at the local level and promote the SDG commissions at the local, municipal and state levels not only at the national level
3. How to ensure more spaces to boost the HLPF reform debates behind the scenes – Gestos has been working on a very specific proposal on having a day for civil society participation where they can present their spotlight reports and invite governments in an open space for discussion and comments. If governments do not want to listen to our criticisms, we are willing to hear their reactions to our spotlight reports.

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