HLPF Working Methods „Fit for Purpose“?

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Institutional „home“ of the SDGs

• under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (annually) and of the General Assembly (every 4 years)

• shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development,

• follow up and review progress in implementation,

• enhance the integration of the 3 dimensions of SD in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and

• consider new and emerging SD challenges

>> Working methods and work flow?
Workflow

Source: Beisheim 2018; building on Dellas, Carius, Beisheim et al. 2018
Follow-up and Review at HLPF

Complementary elements

SDG progress Report

Indicator Framework

Partner ship Review (PX)

GSDR

Thematic Reviews

Regional Reviews

FFD/MoI Review

Voluntary National Reviews
HLPF VNRs

**Purpose:** Support for national-level *implementation*, HLPF-VNR as culmination of a previous *national*-level review process, solid *analysis* of the state of implementation at national level with special consideration of the 2030 Agenda *principles* (transformative, integrated, inclusive, leaving no one behind)

**Problems so far:** *Voluntary* guidelines, quality of national-level *preparatory* processes varies, *reports* come in late and quality varies, lack of *analysis* re good practices/challenges, limited *time* to discuss in-depth, interactive *debate* not well-prepared, rather friendly praise, limited room for critical questions from MGoS, need to secure *actionable* results and support

**To do:** Develop *guidelines & support* for better preparation; ask MS to present (draft) reports at *national* level first; debate should produce policy *recommendations* that should then be reflected in actionable Ministerial Declaration/ECOSOC President’s Summary, should inform *follow-up* processes
HLPF Thematic and SDG Reviews

• **Purpose**: in-depth *analysis* of the state of implementation of SDGs with special consideration of the 2030 Agenda *principles* (transformative, integrated, inclusive, leaving no one behind)

• **Problems so far**: No guidelines (?), *preparatory* processes are hard to follow, reports from UN System come in very *late*, HLPF panels do not work with them or with the background notes for each SDG (EGMs, ECESA Plus), limited *time* for the panels to discuss in-depth, need to secure *actionable* results

• **To do**: Develop *guidelines*; designated custodian institutions should publish a *roadmap* on preparatory & follow-up processes in good time so that relevant actors may prepare their inputs; *panel debates* should produce policy recommendations that should be reflected in Ministerial Declaration/ECOSOC Pres. Sum.
HLPF Reviews: add value!

- **goal**: policy guidance and recommendations with special consideration of the 2030 Agenda *principles* (transformative, integrated, inclusive, leaving no one behind)

- **evidence base** = solid analysis, integrated and self-critical assessments >> effective *preparatory processes* needed

- reviews should identify entry points for *how* transformative change can be achieved, *who should do what*, and how to install the right *incentives* for those actors

  ➢ inform Ministerial Declaration

  ➢ Member States need (sufficient time to coordinate with capitals) to negotiate actionable recommendations
HLPF Ministerial Declaration

- **Purpose**: political leadership and guidance with special consideration of the 2030 Agenda principles (transformative, integrated, inclusive, leaving no one behind)

- **Problems so far**: Negotiated before HLPF, i.e. cannot draw on results from reviews and debates; no actionable recommendations, no clear mandate for follow-up (> who should do what?); politicization during closing session

- **To do**: Improve preparatory and follow-up processes, enhance DESA’s capacities in that regard (e.g. to produce and disseminate synthesis papers, to find-fund-brief panelists, broker follow-up), review ECOSOC calendar (Res. 72/305) for better work flow (e.g. combine Integration Segment, 3 working days of HLPF, 1-day annual DCF into 5-day HLPF Spring Meeting end of May > Summary informs negotiations on MD in June, 5-day HLPF in July with 3 Ministerial Days)
Timeline 2019/2020

1) High-level Group or Group of Friends?
2) High-level Expert Panel?
3) SG Report?

HLPF
ECOSOC 2019
• final round of reviews in first 4-year cycle
• first new GSDR
• no Ministerial Declaration

HLPF
UNGA 2019
• Heads of State and Government
• Political Declaration
• Political Guidance

HLPF
Review 2020
• Review of format and organizational aspects, and
• follow-up and review

ECOSOC
Review

FFD
Summit
Climate
Summit

Source: Beisheim 2018
Thank you!

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