Advancing the 2030 Agenda: Lessons learnt from the first cycle of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – how far can we go?

An expert meeting for reviewing how to improve the HLPF

12 December, 2018

UN Headquarters in New York,
Conference Room E

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>SESSION 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
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<td>President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations</td>
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<td>Marion Barthelemy, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA</td>
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<td>Overview of agenda and objectives for the meeting</td>
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<td>Felix Dodds, Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina</td>
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<td>9:30-11:00</td>
<td>SESSION 2</td>
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<td>How could the 2019 HLPF summit deliver actions, implementation and acceleration?</td>
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<td>The 2019 HLPF summit should be an important occasion to strengthen political will for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should identify accelerators and drivers of change to speed up implementation.</td>
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<td>Paper presented by: David O’Connor, Permanent Observer of IUCN to the United Nations; Sustainable Economist at WRI</td>
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This might include addressing elements such as:
   a) How could the summit deliver actions, implementation and acceleration?
   b) Should commitments and partnerships be encouraged?
   c) How can drivers of change be identified?
   d) What kind of assistance would countries need to speed up implementation and what has been holding them behind?

11:00-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-13:15 SESSION 3

What should be the outcome from the 2019 HLPF Summit?

In 2019, the High-Level Political Forum will complete its first cycle. The HLPF, an outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, was created as a replacement for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). When the 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015, the HLPF became the mandated global platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. This session will review options for what the outcome from the Heads of State session in September 2019 should be.

Moderator:
Verena Klinger-Dering, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations

Paper presented by:
Irena Zubcevic, Chief of Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA
Felix Dodds, Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina

Respondents:
Jyrki Terva, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, President of the European Union (July to Dec 2019)
Meriem El Hilali, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations
Raymond H. Landveld Economic Affairs Officer UNCTAD, Liaison Office, New York

This might include addressing elements such as:
   a) How can we ensure that discussions in the lead-up and during the 2019 HLPF Summit serve as a catalyst for concrete action to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
   b) What general guidance could the September 2019 HLPF Summit provide on review of the HLPF?
   c) What elements should be included in the Political Declaration to accelerate implementation?
   d) Should the summit outcomes be such that they can lead to concrete follow up?

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 SESSION 4

How can we ensure the summit and subsequent HLPFs fully engage major groups and other stakeholders including local and sub-national governments and what additional role or entitlement they should have?

The Major Groups concept was originally put forward by Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the 1972 and 1992 UN conferences on environment and development. The idea was to enhance the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders in society. The 1992 Agenda 21 blueprint for the 21st century identified nine Major Groups to help member states make better policy at all levels and to be engaged in helping to deliver global agreements themselves or in partnership with others. The Rio+20 Conference and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development identified additional stakeholders to be involved considering the past 25 years. Regarding local and sub-national governments, it has been estimated that over 60% of the targets in the SDGs will be delivered at the local or sub-national level. After the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 over 6000 local and sub national councils developed their own local agenda 21st are there lessons here for the 2030 Agenda?

Moderator:
Makwe Samuel Victor, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

Paper presented by:
Jan Gustav Strandenaes, Senior Advisor on governance for Stakeholder Forum

Paper presented by:
Jorge Fernandez, Delegation of the Basque Country to the United States

Paper presented by:
Alexandra Hiniker, Program Director, Global Vision Urban Action, Strategic Relationships Manager, New York City Mayor’s Office for International Affairs

Respondents:
Vincent Jechoux, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
Donald Mark Ritchie, Minnesota former Secretary of State, USA Expo 2027, Incoming President of Global Minnesota
Daniel Perell, Steering Group of the HLPF Major Group and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism

This might include addressing elements such as:

a) Why and how has the UN moved away from NGOs to Major Groups and Other Stakeholders and what – if any – are the success factors of this approach?

b) What examples are there of good practices on engagement of stakeholders from around the UN system that could be built into the next phase of the HLPF?

c) What and how can stakeholders contribute to developing policy issues and how can they be an agent for implementation?

d) What could local and subnational governments do to engage local stakeholders in helping to develop local strategy and policy to implement the SDGs?

e) What can be done at the local and sub-national level to create partnerships to help deliver the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda?

f) Could and should local and subnational government develop their own VNRs?

g) What role would local and subnational indicators play?

16:00-16:15 Coffee break
SESSION 5

What role Regional Commissions can play in taking forward the 2030 Agenda

Regional Commissions can play a vital role in integrating Sustainable Development Goals into regional development planning and fiscal frameworks; promoting policy coherence, consistency and coordination; enhancement of data and statistical capacities of Member States in the region; identifying and promoting alternative and innovative sources of financing for development relevant to these levels of development; producing regional annual reports; serving as a place for peer learning and budding countries at similar levels of development; working together to leverage science, technology and innovation (STI); supporting and tapping South-South and regional partnerships.

Moderator: Diego Dewar Viscarra, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Paper presented by:
Yera Ortiz de Urbina, Deputy Director Regional Commissions New York Office

Respondents:
Mehdi Remaoun, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations
Cédric Braqueti Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations

This might include addressing elements such as:

a) What could be done at the regional level to share experiences on VNRs?
b) What could be done at the regional level working with regional development banks to help address funding for the SDGs?
c) What role should regional forums play to help build capacity in the region?
d) What can the region do to enhance the development of national strategies for the SDGs?
e) What can the region do to advance the enhancement of data and statistical capacities in the region?
| 17:45-18:15 | SESSION 6  
Way forward and next steps  

**Moderator:** Park Chull-joo, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  

**Comments on the workshop**  
Jorge Skinner-Klee, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations  

**What next**  
Marion Barthelemy, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA  

Felix Dodds, Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina |