



# BALANCING THE PILLARS: Eradicating Poverty, Protecting the Planet and Promoting Shared Prosperity

*Together 2030 written inputs to the  
UN High-Level Political Forum on  
Sustainable Development (HLPF)  
2017*

*From policy to action*

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# BALANCING THE PILLARS: Eradicating Poverty, Protecting the Planet and Promoting Shared Prosperity

## *Together 2030 Written Inputs to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2017*

### SUMMARY

At the HLPF 2017, governments should clearly report on how they are implementing their integrated promises and commitments; mainstreaming the SDGs into their national plans and budgets and working towards eradicating poverty and hunger everywhere, realizing human rights, ensuring fair and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and combating inequalities well before 2030. Furthermore, governments must share how they are generating effective and inclusive institutions for SDG delivery. At the HLPF, members states should focus on four main themes: 1) Poverty eradication that leaves no one behind; 2) Prosperity shared in a people-centered economy; 3) A planet that is protected; and (4) Institutions at all levels that are participatory, transparent and accountable. Approaches to poverty alleviation shared at the HLPF must include concrete budgeted policies that promote women's rights and gender equality, children's rights, overcoming barriers for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, migrants, minority ethnic groups, young and older persons and others.

The HLPF needs to proactively build on existing mechanisms and functional bodies to deliver on its mandate of policy coherence, particularly on thematic issues. The HLPF is an opportunity to (i) assess gaps in existing mechanisms and identify which population groups are not properly reviewed vis-a-vis SDG progress and (ii) define proper mechanisms to overcome such gaps. With regards to the Voluntary National Reviews, we expect presentations to clearly: (i) outline how inclusive the national process has been at country level; (ii) address comprehensive, coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda and (iii) explain how the accountability framework surrounding VNRs will be progressively strengthened. Preparatory events around thematic reviews should be supported and rest on contributions by all stakeholders.

VNR countries should state when they plan to volunteer again and an accountability cycle should be continually in place until 2030, providing regular and predictable spaces for interaction, review and participation.

Governments should report on the creation of clear, open, coherent, transparent and regular spaces for the



participation of stakeholders in the planning, implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. Any country that leaves the most marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged ‘outside the door’ of their national discussions cannot be said to ‘leave no one behind’.

So far, civil society experiences of participation vary and, in several countries, efforts to include civil society still appear to be tokenistic or there is still a perception that government officials are uncomfortable with building working relationships with civil society.

Funding continues to be a major barrier for the participation of civil society together with lack of capacity to understand the Goals and their interlinkages. Efforts should also be undertaken at all levels to engage stakeholders beyond the “usual suspects” and consultation has to be cross-sectoral and country-wide, not restricted to capitals and other centers of power.

In some developed countries, it has been a challenge to engage domestic stakeholders beyond environmental and development-focused NGO. Engaging subnational government bodies is still a challenge, due to unawareness or the perception of the SDGs as an “external agenda”.

Paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda calls on major groups and other relevant stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda and this is still a missing piece of the global follow up and review architecture. UN Member States and the President of ECOSOC should establish clear and meaningful mechanisms – beyond online platforms - to collect, publicize and analyze reports on the contribution of civil society and stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. Finally, the HLPF ministerial declaration should encourage governments to partner with civil society and stakeholders in developing capacity building and awareness programs on the 2030 Agenda.

## COMPREHENSIVE CONTRIBUTION

### I. Balancing the Pillars of Sustainable Development

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF)’s theme this year "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*" – is an invitation for attending Governments to reinforce the “political will” on the ground – to reflect, within national contexts, the global support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demonstrated in 2015. Governments should present plans and policies on poverty alleviation and eradication and on all the goals, as well as the interlinkages among the goals that are part of the thematic focus for this year’s HLPF.

It is therefore time for governments to clearly report on how they are implementing their integrated promises and commitments; mainstreaming the SDGs into their national plans and budgets and working towards eradicating poverty and hunger everywhere, realizing human rights, ensuring fair and sustainable



management of natural resources and ecosystems, as well as combating inequalities well before 2030. Furthermore, governments must share how they are generating effective and inclusive institutions for SDG delivery – what can be considered the “fourth pillar” of sustainable development. These institutions must themselves also ‘leave no one behind’.

It has been reaffirmed time and time again that poverty will only be eradicated if prosperity is equitably shared, social protection is a reality and if the planet is protected. Integrating and balancing the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) lies at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is a key element of the HLPF discussions.

### *Experiences from the Ground #1.*

#### *United Kingdom\**

The UK government has issued an [overview report](#) of the UK response to the SDGs at home and abroad. It has been announced that individual government departments will mainstream the SDGs through their Single Departmental Plans, and report on activities through their annual accounts, while the Department for International Development will hold general oversight of the approach. Scottish and Welsh Governments have committed to embedding the SDGs in both national and international policy within their areas of devolved competence. In the Scottish case, this is taking place through its International Development Strategy and National Action Plan on Human Rights; in Wales through the Wellbeing of Future Generations act and the appointment of a Future Generations Commissioner.

Committees of the UK Parliament have conducted three inquiries into (1) [the SDGs](#); (2) [the SDGs within the UK](#); and (3) [Goal 5](#). Recommendations highlight the need for government leadership, effective coordination between government departments, partnership with stakeholders, and annual reporting to parliament. Civil society support for - and participation in - Parliamentary scrutiny of the SDGs, has been extensive and fruitful. Multistakeholder networks are facilitating this activity, notably the [BOND SDG group](#) (international) and [UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development](#) (domestic). The Office for National Statistics has, at time of writing, just launched a [consultation](#) on how to develop a UK data and reporting structure for all goals and targets.

As part of its transition from the MDGs to the SDGs, in January 2015, the Indian Government replaced its Planning Commission for the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI). This commission (or Aayog) serves as the Government's policy think tank, providing directional, policy inputs and relevant technical advice to the Central and State Governments. The Aayog has been entrusted with the role to co-ordinate 'transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. As a first step, the Aayog shifted from a traditional 5-year plan, to a 15-year vision document.

As of June 2017, the Aayog has completed the process of mapping the various Ministries and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of the central Government against the various goals of the SDGs, indicating "nodal" Ministries for SDGs and its targets. Actual work of directing energies towards achieving the various goals is yet to take off in a concerted manner.

The Bangladesh Government has integrated the SDGs and its targets with its 7FYP (7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020). The Government has developed a mapping document including all Ministries, Divisions and Agencies by SDGs and target for fast track. The respective Ministries/Divisions or govt. development agencies will follow the above mapping document by SDGs targets and will also initiate process of devising action program interventions by phases. The 7th FYP will only cover the first phase of the SDG period

Finance and resource mobilization are the key components in coming years in achieving the SDG targets. Bangladesh has not yet prepared any financial need assessment for SDG implementation, but has a plan to do it. The 7th FYP has made a primary financing estimation from both public and private sectors for the fiscal year of 2016-2020. But this amount does not reflect the need or demand based financial allocation to achieve the SDG targets. Expert says that, in achieving the SDGs in Bangladesh, domestic resource mobilization need to be raised to at least 18 percent from the present 12.1 percent over the next 5 to 10 years, but the projection of domestic resource mobilization is (14.2-16.2% of GDP) in the 7th FYP. Concern has been raised whether government will be able to ensure quality financing to SDGs despite integration of the targets in the 7<sup>th</sup> FYP.

On the civil society side, there is great awareness among the NGOs and Government Officials about SDGs. A civil society group has been formed with expert professionals to monitor the progress towards achievement of SDG in the country.

## (1) Poverty eradication that leaves no one behind

Developing countries have experienced advances in the past decades. Hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty and some 1.1 billion escaped extreme poverty. However, 1.6 billion adults live in multidimensional poverty and one in nine people still go to bed hungry, even as studies show that three-quarters of extreme poverty could be eliminated now, through better, progressive taxation whilst cutting down on military and other regressive spending<sup>1</sup>.

Poverty eradication demands tailored approaches that equally address the multidimensional aspects of poverty and the need to reduce inequalities within societies. Children, especially girls, are disproportionately affected by poverty and even more so by extreme poverty. Falling into poverty in childhood can last a lifetime; there are no second chances for a healthy start in life or to access education.

Approaches to poverty alleviation, then, must include concrete budgeted policies that promote women's rights and gender equality, children's rights, overcoming barriers for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, migrants, minority ethnic groups, young and older persons and others. Strong investment in quality education for all ages is an essential element for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Furthermore, governments must take appropriate measures to ensure accessibility in the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, both in urban and in rural areas, to allow for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## (2) Prosperity shared in a people-centered economy

The type of prosperity to be promoted is the one that can be shared and benefit the whole society and not only the richest, as is the current trend. The private sector should be a responsible partner in the promotion of sustainable development and businesses, at the heart of a market yet people-centered economy and should work for the benefit of the whole society in order to allow prosperity to become a reality beyond shareholders. Instead, public-private partnerships (PPPs) present pitfalls that are leaving people behind due to lack of transparency and accountability and governments failing or lacking

**"Participation by stakeholders is both a means and an end in the context of Agenda 2030."**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-summ-en.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-summ-en.pdf)

capacity to monitor the PPPs. PPPs should therefore be implemented in line with country-driven priorities with appropriate risk management and regulatory frameworks. Measures to regulate the private sector and alternative approaches such as the Social and Solidarity Economy, development of cooperatives and social enterprises will be essential to achieve the SDGs.

### (3) A planet that is protected

The economic pillar of sustainable development should be promoted in an integrated approach that includes Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), as stated on Goal 12. Protecting nature and ensuring equitable access to environmental resources also supports vulnerable and marginalized groups' continued enjoyment of their rights to life, health, food and water. Moreover, the impacts of climate change on poverty eradication, hunger and sustainable development are clear and those linkages must be brought to the HLPF discussions. The HLPF brings an opportunity for governments to share ideas on which broader measures of progress (beyond GDP) are being established (para 48) and how economic growth is being decoupled from resource consumption and environmental degradation (Target 8.4). This will be critical for a revitalized analysis of the multiple dimensions of poverty and of how prosperity is not only being promoted but also shared.

### (4) Institutions at all levels that are participatory, transparent and accountable

Governments truly accountable to each of their citizens, including the most vulnerable and marginalized – those they pledged not to leave behind – are critical if all this is to happen. Enabling civic spaces generate opportunities for the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women, children, youth and older persons, persons with disabilities and others to engage in decisions that affect their own lives, expressing challenges and devising solutions and strategies. The 'left behind' need to be known and made statistically visible as a valuable resource at the global, national, and subnational scales.



Civil society groups have demonstrated their impact through the sector's high degree of responsiveness and flexibility to changing political and social landscapes, their ability to stimulate action through public engagement, and their ability to provide a voice to a collective set of values that is deeply rooted in communities, but still scalable to partnerships and networks. With this level

### *Experiences from the Ground #2.*

*Togo\**

Togo is the only country that has volunteered for a national review in both 2016 and 2017, and has showed greater openness in this year's process. Part of this increase in participation has been fueled by the Government's initiative to include civil society representatives in its regional consultations for the National Development Plan. However, the biggest driver of the recent rise of awareness among civil society have been regional and national CSO consultative workshops on SDGs.

Togo CSOs SDG Working Group succeed to bring together for the very first time in two decades, all components of its civil society, including local Mayors and the Diaspora. On their own funds, The TCSWG facilitated organization of thematic workshops mainly for youth, women and volunteers. The group presented its contribution to the Government at a national workshop, submitted 3 written statements on SDG domestication processes in Togo, had a working session with the Planning Minister, fully contributed to the country VNR report and is currently finalizing its shadow report to the HLPF Voluntary National Report. This experience has created a new paradigm of collaboration among Togo major groups and other stakeholders to engage in a new kind of partnership. A success story indeed.

of expertise and connection, governments should explore the role of civil society organizations as partners in developing subnational and national indicators, contributing data, and ensuring funding is available, including through international cooperation, to enable such organizations to participate fully in indicator development, data collection and monitoring.

## **II. Strengthening the Accountability Cycle**

The HLPF, as a forum for follow up and review needs to reflect the integrated character of sustainable development challenges, in particular by proactively building on existing mechanisms as mandated by the 2030 Agenda. Existing functional commissions and other bodies provided substantive inputs at HLPF 2017. This is very important if the HLPF is to deliver on its mandate of policy coherence, particularly on thematic issues. These functional bodies address issues related to specific population groups where they bring to the forefront particular issues regarding these groups and most importantly how SDGs are impacting their lives.

Furthermore, for policy coherence, the HLPF is an opportunity to (i) assess gaps in existing mechanisms and identify which population groups are not properly reviewed vis-a-vis SDG progress and (ii) define proper mechanisms to overcome such gaps. It must be noted that children are one such group requiring particular attention, even as no functional body or forum exists for children and their issues within the ECOSOC system. No process has been set up that can allow for the HLPF deliberations and decisions to be informed by such





inputs across a spectrum of groups and issues.

## (1) Voluntary National Reviews

*(a) VNR presentations at the HLPF should clearly outline how inclusive the national process leading up to the VNR has been at country level, by responding to the following questions:*

- Was there a multi-layered review system focusing on whether national plans are matching the global ambition, the gaps, opportunities and commitments to action?
- Was civil society and other stakeholders included in all phases of the review cycle, including for VNRs, from planning to the presentation at the HLPF and at national debriefing and planning after the HLPF?
- Was there a clear, open and inclusive process to prepare the VNR established at national level and was information about how stakeholders could participate extensively exchanged? What was the timeline and was it publicly shared?
- Were there online consultations organized as well as face-to-face discussions where civil society and stakeholders could directly bring their perspectives to the report preparation?
- Are stakeholder representatives part of the official country delegation to the HLPF?
- Will governments organize a debriefing at national level, to review the process and inputs received and plan next steps in addressing main challenges after the HLPF review?

*(b) VNR presentations should directly address comprehensive, coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda, that reflects the global ambition including responding to the following questions:*

- Are internal synergies being created?
- Is policymaking coherent?
- How are silos being avoided?
- Are there multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms in place for planning, implementation and accountability of the SDGs?

*(c) The accountability framework surrounding VNRs should be progressively strengthened*

The governance arrangements for national SDG accountability should be detailed by countries volunteering for national reviews (VNR) and a clear accountability cycle should be presented, including how the outcomes of the HLPF discussions will be brought back to the national level.



Additionally, VNR countries should state when they plan to volunteer again and bring a national report to the global level, in order to facilitate planning and follow up. An accountability cycle should be continually in place until 2030, providing regular and predictable spaces for interaction, review and participation for civil society and stakeholders, be the result of inclusive national discussions and part of a multi-layered review system.

To be a meaningful space, governments should not only use the HLPF to present their own commitments and achievements but also to contribute to constructive and robust review of the commitments of others, including civil society stakeholders and the private sector, maximizing this opportunity for mutual learning and long-term global progress. The HLPF can be a space where global principles and the outline for multi-stakeholder partnerships are established. It should also be a space to review good (and bad) examples, discuss patterns, challenges and opportunities, including on how civil society and other stakeholders are being engaged.

Systematic review of how the global partnership for sustainable development best enables fulfilment of the SDGs, including global poverty alleviation, should be undertaken. Developed countries must look beyond official development aid (ODA) and bilateral development assistance to their country-level trade and finance policies and their contributions to specific aspects of international cooperation and reform, including systemic issues identified in the SDGs, in particular Goal 17. Commitments and progress in all these respects should be reviewed and followed-up country-by-country at and beyond the HLPF.

### *Experiences from the Ground #3.*

*Republic of Korea\**

Korea SDGs Network has been preparing its spotlight report for 2017 HLPF since February 2017 and submitted it to UN on April 28, 2017. Even though the Korean government has not volunteered to present a national review at the 2017 HLPF, the spotlight report aims to deliver the position of Korean civil society groups on the main themes of the 2017 HLPF.

Some of the main challenges identified by the Network are:

- 1) Contradictory targets and indicators such as GDP growth versus ecological sustainability;
- 2) Quantitative and outcome-centered indicator system that is not prepared to directly and comprehensively monitor diverse efforts on the ground; and
- 3) Lack of targets and indicators to monitor inclusiveness and participation, which are fundamental elements of the principle of 'Leaving no one behind'.

## **(2) The role of Thematic Reviews to increase inclusion and the integration of different perspectives**

By looking at a sub-set of goals from within a specific theme, thematic reviews under the HLPF provide a tool for an integrated implementation of the SDGs. They can provide ideas for cross-thematic collaboration and

cooperation between UN agencies, knowledge institutions and civil society, and most importantly, between citizens and their governments. HLPF 2017 represents a milestone as the first global forum to review specific goals.

Preparatory events to the HLPF that focus on thematic reviews should be supported and it should be encouraged that their implementation rests on contributions by all stakeholders. Review processes at the global level can support national processes to ensure that the principles of the 2030 Agenda are upheld. Clear options to conduct thematic reviews in a way that lives up to the principles of the 2030 Agenda should be developed and disseminated.

### (3) Meaningful participation at all levels

Participation by stakeholders is both a means and an end in the context of Agenda 2030. Reflecting this, governments should report on how they are creating clear, open, coherent, transparent and regular spaces for the participation of stakeholders in the planning, implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda

#### *Experience from the Ground #4.*

*Brazil\**

Several national CSOs have engaged with international and regional groups since the post-2015 negotiations, becoming an official Working Group (GT) in June, even before Addis. The CSO Working Group for the 2030 Agenda focuses on three key areas: a) Setting up the Brazilian SDGs National Commission; b) Influencing Brazil's position on the global SDG indicators and debating future national indicators; c) Aligning the country's future national and sub-national budgets with the 2030 Agenda.

After receiving continued pressure from the working group CSOs, the Brazilian SDG National Commission decree was signed by the President in October 2016, but only in March 2017 was there a call for its composition. It was finally inaugurated on June 29th.

CSOs have been fighting for transparent participation processes, including in the drafting of the voluntary national review report to be presented at the HLPF 2017. Even though there was an open consultation from NGOs to present what they have been doing to implement the 2030 Agenda in the country based on paragraph 89, the editing and composition of the VNR was centralized in the Presidential Governing Secretary, only coming out when it was finished, without any consultation beyond the initial process.

The Brazilian CS WG for the 2030 Agenda, foreseeing what was about to happen since February, decided and mobilized resources to produce (through a collective effort of network coordination) a *Spotlight Report* highlighting the challenges and opportunities to implement the SDGs in Brazil in all levels, particularly the sub-national. The synthesis report was launched in Brasilia, in the House of Representatives Environmental and Sustainable Development Commission, and will be taken to the HLPF (the full version of the report will be available on the Internet as well.)

at all levels. As a *means*, participation allows the expertise and contributions of all groups to speed up and enhance the quality of delivery on the SDGs, delivering better policies with greater support and ownership. Participation is also an *end*. Participation and inclusion at all levels are part of the goals and targets themselves and a space for accountability and public scrutiny of commitments is fundamental to follow up and review.

#### a) *At national and subnational level*

Any country that leaves the most marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged ‘outside the door’ of their national discussions cannot be said to ‘leave no one behind’.

So far, civil society experiences of participation vary from country to country and from goal to goal. In several countries, efforts to include civil society still appear to be tokenistic and there is still a perception that government officials and bureaucracy are uncomfortable with building working relationships with civil society.

Funding continues to be a major barrier for the participation of civil society together with lack of capacity to understand the Goals and their interlinkages – including having access to translated materials – and on how to engage with the national and local response. Efforts should also be undertaken at regional, national and local level to engage a wider range of stakeholders beyond the “usual suspects”. Within countries, consultation and awareness raising has to be cross-sectoral and genuinely country-wide, not restricted to national capitals and other centers of power.

In some developed countries, it has been a challenge to engage domestic stakeholders beyond environmental and development-focused NGOs to promote the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. In both developed and developing countries, some of the challenges identified include the lack of coordinated spaces for CSO engagement or the lack of an official national structure to facilitate the processes related to the 2030 Agenda. Self-organized structures for CSO engagement are important at all levels, especially at the local, national and regional levels and those should feed into global processes and structures. The principles of self-organization and subsidiarity are critical for civil society in order to avoid instrumentalization, which damages both the intrinsic values and extrinsic effectiveness of civil society.

Despite their enormous contribution to sustainable development, CSOs may lack the capacity to properly register and share their experiences, hence the need to strengthen capacities at all levels. Capacity building efforts should comprise not only information about the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs but also results-based management, monitoring, evaluation and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The UN Country Teams have a role to play in promoting capacities, identifying, registering and disseminating those experiences.

There has also been a challenge engaging subnational government bodies in a national framework even though jurisdictional responsibilities over relevant resources dictate clear dependence on subnational performance for national achievement of the SDGs. Yet in some countries, government officials may be still unaware about the SDGs and the national commitment towards their implementation, or see them as an



“external agenda”, impacting on the establishment of inclusive processes for planning, implementation and accountability.

### *Experience from the Ground #5.*

### *British Columbia, Canada\**

Canada has integrated the SDGs into several of its domestic and international policies, including those focused on the environment, defence, and international assistance. Without a guiding set of national indicators to track the goals, however, local civil society organizations have become the engine behind the implementation and measurement of the 2030 Agenda. Under the guidance of the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), 52 roundtable discussions were held in over 30 rural and urban communities with over 700 leaders and decision makers providing input into a possible Canadian SDG agenda. A result of this fieldwork is an [online map](#) of British Columbian individuals and organizations working towards achieving the goals that allows groups and the public to more easily connect and collaborate with each other and government. The map is also a valuable tool in reinforcing the need for a national plan around the SDGs that depends on subnational input and expertise. It has provided a way to report on provincial performance towards the SDGs.

Building on the roundtable outcomes, BCCIC conducted additional analysis of available national statistical data and case studies to develop a civil society report in lieu of Canada not submitting a VNR this year. The report provides a national snapshot of the goals under review this year and was submitted to the UN in July 2017. Key findings include:

- Policies and programming operate within departmental silos, which prevents a comprehensive and interconnected approach to sustainable development.
- The global indicators are not always relevant to the Canadian context, which calls for the need for a national set of meaningful and applicable indicators.
- Within a national set of indicators there must be further room for regional or demographic variability, particularly among vulnerable populations and remote communities such as Indigenous Communities, whose performance on SDG outcomes fall behind those of the average non-indigenous Canadian.

### *b) Stakeholders contribution to the Implementation and the global level*

Paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda calls on major groups and other relevant stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda. This is a strategic opportunity for civil society to showcase their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda and the SDGs and it is still a missing piece of the global follow up and review architecture.

UN Member States and the President of ECOSOC have not yet established clear and meaningful mechanisms to collect, publicize and analyze reports on the contribution of civil society and stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. Such mechanisms need to go beyond online platforms and

incorporate systems and technologies that reach out to multiple levels, including local and grassroots levels, and that generate capacity for those experiences to be shared and scaled up at the global level.

At this initial stage of planning and implementing the SDGs, the HLPF ministerial declaration should encourage governments to invite civil society and stakeholders to partner with them in developing capacity building and awareness programs on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Recommendations from civil society and stakeholders' reports must be taken into account when discussing and negotiating the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. Finally, the HLPF venues should be made fully accessible for persons with disabilities as well as for children.



## About this paper:

*This paper is issued on behalf of the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group. The original draft was developed based on inputs to questions proposed by the Together 2030 Secretariat and opened for consultations from February 23 to March 9 2017. A first version was opened for comments and additional inputs from March 17 to 30 2017. The Working Group Lead and Secretariat undertook another review. A second round of comments was opened to the Working Group from April 11 to 17 2017. The final version has been revised by the Together 2030 Core Group.*

*Organizations engaged on the Together 2030 Global Advocacy Working Group were invited to collaborate and provide inputs to this document. Final text reflects the summary and collection of those inputs but not necessarily, the agreement or endorsement of those organizations on all proposals presented.*

*\*Country examples were provided by members of the Initiative engaging with the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and reflect their respective experiences. They were summarized and edited by the Together 2030 International Secretariat. Contributors to country examples: **United Kingdom** (Graham Long, Newcastle University & Rachel Aston, Bond UK), **India and Bangladesh** (Nalini Vaz, Sightsavers), **Togo** (Sena Alouka, JVE International), **South Korea** (Gomer Padong, Philippine Social Enterprise Network), **Brazil** (Alessandra Nilo, Gestos), **Canada** (Deborah Glaser, British Columbia Council for International Cooperation)*

*A summary of this position paper has been included in the [official discussion paper](#) from major groups and other stakeholders to the HLPF 2017. The full text was also published at the official HLPF 2017 website as a [thematic paper](#).*

## *Diversity of Opinion within civil society:*

*Members of Together 2030 express and prioritize different aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs and provide a broad range of views regarding its implementation and follow up. Members are united in the following objectives:*

- To strengthen partnerships between civil society and stakeholders to support the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.*
- To make the voices of people heard and have people holding governments accountable for the progress towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at all levels.*

*“Any country that leaves the most marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged ‘outside the door’ of their national discussions cannot be said to ‘leave no one behind’.”*



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