HLPF REPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2016

*“Inclusiveness means that all people can participate as partners, rights-holders and full citizens, not as subjects or mere beneficiaries. Relevant international instruments often exist, such as the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities, but are not always respected.”[[1]](#footnote-1)*

-HLPF Official Summary, H.E. Oh Joon, President of ECOSOC and HLPF

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# COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| HLPF | High-level Political Forum |
| UN CRPD | United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| DPOs | Disabled Persons Organizations |
| IDA | International Disability Alliance |
| IDDC | International Disability and Development Consortium |
| DRF | Disability Rights Fund |
| UN DSD | United Nations Division for Sustainable Development |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| GA | General Assembly |
| MGoS | Major Groups and other Stakeholders |
| VNR | Voluntary National Reviews |

# Executive Summary

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is the United Nations central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities[[2]](#footnote-2) took full advantage of the rights granted to them by Member States[[3]](#footnote-3) to participate in and contribute to the HLPF 2016. Prior to the HLPF the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities submitted an official position paper on the annual theme “Ensuring that No One is Left Behind” supported by over 370 organizations globally. Persons with Disabilities were invited as official panelists at the opening, as well as the first session of the HLPF. Panelists were requested to address the vital role that persons with disabilities play as contributors in the implementation of the SDGs and to make recommendations to governments on how to ensure that all development processes are inclusive. In addition, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities made 17 interventions during thematic discussions, the voluntary national reviews and the General Debate. Moreover, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities co-organized and participated in several side events. In eight of these side events, persons with disabilities presented in a variety of topics such as, inclusive education, data disaggregation by disability, tackling inequalities, and ending violence against children. Further, the Stakeholders of Persons with Disabilities organized a side event during the ministerial week on how effective collaboration between organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and governments can be realized in implementing the SDGs. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities that represented the regions of Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, shared their particular achievements and challenges from the national and grassroots levels.

The rights and participation of persons with disabilities were prominently recognized by UN Members States, UN agencies and other actors. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with disabilities contributed to discussions throughout the HLPF in a meaningful way resulting in the heightened visibility of persons with disabilities within the SDG implementation process. Out of the 22 Voluntary National Reviews, 16 submissions[[4]](#footnote-4) and 8 oral presentations[[5]](#footnote-5) of Member States explicitly elaborated on the situation of persons with disabilities in their national context.

IDA and IDDC developed surveys on the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the voluntary national reviews for the HLPF 2016. The findings indicated that the lack of inclusive participation in the consultations of the national reviews was the most commonly raised issue. Many respondents asked for increased dialogue and engagement opportunities between Governments and DPOs with the prerequisite for full participation with non-discrimination compliance and provision of reasonable accommodations. Quite concerning was that in some cases, DPO engagement was substituted by government agencies. The lack of information at the national level was raised as an important issue and DPOs’ knowledge of the SDGs and the value in its engagement varied considerably. The role and active engagement of UN agencies at the national level was highlighted as critical in some countries, but also criticized as UN agencies are inconsistent in capacity. Language barriers, lack of access to information, and the lack of provision of the SDGs in a comprehensible way to the grassroots level are of real concern. Finally, many respondents asked for an exchange on good practices on how DPOs in other countries engage in the SDG implementation process.

While participation took place, on the whole persons with disabilities were largely left out of the national-level consultations. DPOs are looking for opportunities to work with governments, and many are being turned away. Public consultations often exclude persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. Even when wider civil society is invited to participate, meetings and documents are not accessible for many persons with disabilities, thus excluding them from democratic processes.

# The Road to HLPF 2016 - Preparatory processes

The 2030 Agenda was adopted during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, held September 25th -27th, 2015. After the adoption, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) who also presides over the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), decided in consultation with Member States and Major Groups and other Stakeholders on the 2016 theme of the HLPF and initiated discussions on the procedures for the Voluntary National Reviews. Subsequently, the theme of the HLPF 2016, “Ensuring No One is Left Behind” was finalized in February 2016, while the procedure for the Voluntary National Review reporting was finalized shortly before the start of the HLPF. As a consequence of unclear processes and late decisions, the preparations leading up to HLPF 2016 was full of challenges.

## Voluntary National Reviews

Between December 2015 and May 2016, 22 countries volunteered to report at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on the implementation of the SDGs. The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) developed a two-phase approach. During the first phase, the focus was to mobilize and raise awareness within the disability community in these countries relating to the review. A guidance note and a toolkit were developed, phone calls and webinars were held to engage the disability community in the given country. The objective was to ensure that DPOs engage in the national review, provide guidance on how to implement the SDGs in line with the UN CRPD, and to ensure their participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues with governments at the national level. IDA and IDDC developed a simple questionnaire to assess if participation of, or consultation with, DPOs – including providing reasonable accommodation - was carried out at the national level.

From the 22 countries that volunteered to report, IDA and IDDC, in collaboration with partners identified and contacted DPOs in 21 countries. Sixteen countries responded to the participation-related questionnaire that IDA, IDDC and Disability Rights Fund (DRF) composed. Multi-stakeholder dialogues between civil society - including persons with disabilities - and governments were carried out in 13 countries. In three countries governments did not hold multi-stakeholder dialogues.

In the second phase, IDA and IDDC shared the national SDG implementation report – prepared by the volunteering country – and submitted to the UN system, together with a second, substantive questionnaire. The questions were developed to facilitate an analysis of the national reports and to provide opportunities for national organizations of persons with disabilities to raise the most concerning issues of their country. Some responses were used to advocate Member States during the HLPF and to draw their attention to the situation of persons with disabilities within their countries. The second phase, the analysis of national reports is still in progress as Member States failed to submit their reports by the original deadline of mid-May, for example Colombia, China and Samoa have not submitted their full reports as of September 2016.

The most commonly raised issue by persons with disabilities was on the lack of inclusive participation within the official consultation processes at the country level. Many asked for increased dialogue and engagement opportunities between governments and DPOs, however a prerequisite for full participation requires non-discrimination and ensuring reasonable accommodations. An additional concern raised was that in some cases, DPO engagement was substituted by government agencies. Also the lack of information at the national level was raised as an important issue. DPOs’ knowledge of the SDGs and the value in its engagement varied considerably. Many asked and proposed that it would be useful to exchange on practices of how DPOs in other countries engage in the SDG implementation process. Language barriers and access to information were also concerns. The role and active engagement of UN agencies at the national level was highlighted as critical in some countries, but also criticized as they are not always up to the task. Finally, the translation of the SDGs to the grassroots level is entirely missing and this has been identified as a real concern.

Despite these achievements, persons with disabilities were largely left out of the national-level consultations. DPOs are looking for opportunities to work with governments, and many are being turned away. Public consultations often exclude persons with disabilities themselves and their representative organizations. Even when wider civil society is invited to participate, meetings and documents are not accessible for many persons with disabilities, thus excluding them from democratic processes. **Persons with disabilities encounter barriers to participate fully in designing, implementing and reviewing national development programmes. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities aimed to articulate these challenges at all opportunities throughout the HLPF.**

## Position Paper of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

### Development

Pursuant to the UN Division on Sustainable Development (UNDSD) Secretariat’s call on 24 February, 2016, the IDA alongside IDDC initiated the preparatory process to draft a position paper by and on behalf of persons with disabilities for the HLPF 2016. Through an open invitation widely distributed on the IDA and IDDC online databases, 21 individuals volunteered to participate in a lead drafting group, representing a diverse disability movement from all over the world.

The working group produced a zero draft position paper reflecting key messages, correlated with the 17 SDGs, and in line with the main theme of the HLPF. Between March 28th and April 27th this zero draft was submitted for review and comments to the wider IDA and IDDC networks. All were encouraged to provide comments in the paper, using an online collaborative document, ensuring that the consultation process was conducted in an accessible and transparent manner for persons with disabilities. After several rounds of consultations, the draft was sent out for final endorsement and signatures, resulting in over 370 national, regional and international organizations from all over the world supporting this submission.

### Content

The position paper was submitted on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities on May 1st to the UN DSD Secretariat. Its main message focused on how to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind while implementing the SDGs. The position paper emphasized that for effective SDG implementation, the UNCRPD must be utilized as a guiding framework. This would avoid perpetuating inequalities and marginalization, which occurred with the exclusion of persons with disabilities in the MDGs. Addressing all 17 SDGs, the position paper offers detailed and concrete recommendations on how to best include and make related targets effective for persons with disabilities. The collaborative paper reflected a strong and unified message of the disability community and in turn provided an effective foundation for representatives from which to advocate at the HLPF 2016.

Since the submission the paper has been translated into six UN official languages, and became an official background document. Since its submission, the paper has been distributed and used during HLPF and remains the main position paper for IDA and IDDC with regards the content.

# [**Leave No One Behind - HLPF 2016 Position paper by persons with disabilities**](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/resources/leave-no-one-behind-hlpf-2016-position-paper-persons-disabilities)

# The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities in the HLPF MGoS Stakeholder Coordination Mechanism

## Major Groups and other Stakeholders - Background

Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 known as the Earth Summit, it has been recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit, drew upon this sentiment and formalized 9 sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. These groups are officially called "major groups" and include the following sectors: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers. The major groups represent a diverse sector of society, but are not only civil society, they also include local authorities, business and industry, and Indigenous Peoples. Consequently, the concept of major groups is broader than civil society, yet also more limited since it only applies to these 9 sectors.

In 2012 the importance of effectively engaging these 9 sectors of society was reaffirmed by the Rio+20 Conference in which Governments invited other stakeholders, which included volunteer groups, foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, to participate in UN processes related to sustainable development. Currently, there is close collaboration between the major groups and other stakeholders and together they demonstrate a high level of engagement with intergovernmental processes at the UN. The coordination of their input to intergovernmental processes on sustainable development has been led by the UN Division for Sustainable Development.

Major groups and other stakeholders have collaborated to autonomously organize themselves to create an open and transparent coordination mechanism based on accountability. The objective of the coordination mechanism is to share information with the MGoS membership and to define a variety of processes to enable their representation, participation and contribution in sustainable development processes. The MGoS coordination mechanism has a decision-making body comprised of one permanent and one alternate representative of each MGoS group. For details on the terms of reference of the MGoS coordination mechanism, click here: [HLPF Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/resources/hlpf-major-groups-and-other-stakeholders-coordination-mechanism-terms-reference).

## Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

In 2012, the Rio+20 conference officially recognized persons with disabilities as other stakeholders, elevating them as the same as a major group. In addition, the resolution detailing the format and organization of the HLPF grants persons with disabilities rights to participate in the HLPF by attending all official meetings; to have access to all official information and documents; to intervene in official meetings; to submit documents and present written and oral contributions; to make recommendations; and to organize side events and roundtables, in cooperation with Member States. These rights *can only be* exercised through the MGoS coordination mechanism in which persons with disabilities are officially referred to as the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities has worked together with the MGoS in defining their own coordination mechanism as described above. Currently, an elected permanent and alternate representative from the disability community occupies a seat on the steering group of the MGoS coordination mechanism. Also, since May 2016 the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities was elected by the MGoS coordination mechanism as one of its co-facilitators to preside and facilitate engaging within the HLPF processes.

[The Terms of Reference of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/resources/hlpf-major-groups-and-other-stakeholders-coordination-mechanism-terms-reference)

Major groups and other stakeholders, including persons with disabilities were requested to autonomously organize themselves as a prerequisite to feed into UN sustainable development processes. This is a new, yet challenging role for the disability community since it is not an easy task to define an open, transparent and accountable platform that is inclusive for all organizations of persons with disabilities. Since 2012, IDA and IDDC have shared information on the participation for persons with disabilities in sustainable development processes. Yet in order to connect the national and global levels on the follow-up and review of the SDG implementation, it is necessary to formalize information sharing, participation, messaging and representation of these processes in a coordinated manner.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at the HLPF 2016 had an initial meeting to define the rules and regulations of the group. This meeting was advertised and had an online connection to ensure that persons with disabilities globally could participate. As a result, a working group was established that will draft the first outline of the terms of reference for the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities by October 2016.

# High-level Political Forum Summary 2016

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is the United Nations’ central platform for the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld), adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015.

The Forum, which adopts a Ministerial Declaration, is expected to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the SDGs implementation and follow-up; keep track of progress of the SDGs; initiate coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; as well as address new and emerging issues. The first since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the HLPF was held this year from July 10th – July 19th, 2016, and included 22 voluntary national reviews and cross-cutting thematic reviews of progress towards implementing the SDGs. While the HLPF has an intergovernmental character it has maintained, in line with the vision of the 2030 Agenda, a multi-stakeholder format in which stakeholders engaged actively and meaningfully alongside country representatives.

The SDGs most importantly have included explicit and implicit references to persons with disabilities throughout the goals, targets and indicators and as a result this years’ HLPF was held with and reflected the critical engagement of persons with disabilities. Consequently, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities participated actively and contributed meaningfully throughout the forum and its numerous sessions.

Persons with disabilities took full advantage of the rights granted to them by A/RES/67/290 during the 2016 HLPF. Prior to the HLPF persons with disabilities submitted an official position paper on the annual theme supported by over 370 organizations globally. Persons with disabilities were invited as official panelists at the opening as well as the first session of the HLPF and were requested to address the vital role persons with disabilities play as contributors to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in ensuring that all development processes are inclusive. In addition, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities made seventeen interventions during thematic discussions, the voluntary national reviews and the General Debate. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities co-organized and participated in several side events. In eight of these side events persons with disabilities were invited to take lead speaking roles which covered discussions on inclusive education, data desegregation by disability, tackling inequalities, and ending violence against children. The Stakeholders of Persons with Disabilities organized, during the ministerial week, a side event regarding how Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) can effectively collaborate at the national level with their governments on implementing the SDGs. Persons with disabilities representing the regions of Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, shared their particular achievements and challenges from the national and grassroots level. [[6]](#footnote-6)

As a result of the focused preparation and active participation of the Stakeholders Group of Persons with Disabilities were able to deliver a strong and unified message on a diverse set of themes elaborated upon below.

# Thematic Focuses-First week of the HLPF

As referred to previously, Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities attended all the thematic discussions held at the HLPF and was able to deliver and/or submit interventions 16 times. The topics throughout the HLPF addressed themes of poverty alleviation, fostering economic growth, food security, gender equity, inclusive education, data disaggregation, combatting inequalities, and climate change. The following section will elaborate upon each of the thematic topics, the recommendations produced and the contribution of the Stakeholders Group of Persons with Disabilities.

## July 11th, 2016

### Where do we stand at year one?

The first session of the HLPF addressed the question of “where we stand at year one” after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. As the opening session to the 2016 HLPF, Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs presented the 2016 SDG Progress Report[[7]](#footnote-7) prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN System and based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. Speakers[[8]](#footnote-8) addressed the challenges and the aspirations associated with the SDGs. A universally highlighted point related to the critical nature of achieving implementation at the national and grassroots levels, and having measurements and data disaggregation not only at the global level, but nationally. It was widely agreed that in order for the SDGs to have a strong foundation from which they can be successfully implemented, the furthest behind must be brought forward.

As an official discussant at the opening session, Jose Maria Viera of the World Blind Union called upon Member States to realize persons with disabilities as equal and vital contributors to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Citing lack of access to information and historical invisibility within the global stage, persons with disabilities now have a critical role to play and need to be recognized and have access to public information in the monitoring and implementation process.

### Ensuring that no one is left behind: Envisioning an inclusive world in 2030

The session discussed the challenges and possible solutions to inclusion within the SDGs in both outcome and procedures, through innovation in policy formulation and implementation. Perspectives from the three pillars of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - were presented. The moderatornoted specifically that there is widespread discrimination against persons with disabilities and as a whole if one population cannot access opportunity it holds us collectively back. A panelist additionally noted that attention must be drawn to the situation of persons with disabilities within the Commission for Social Development annual work and the implementation of the SDGs.

Official discussant, Mr. Ibrahim Ismail Abdallah, President of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disability (AOPD) commented that in many developing countries inclusion is not practiced especially for women, children and refugees with disabilities despite the country’s global ratification of the respective UN resolutions. He added that UN resolutions are rarely respected by countries at the grassroots level and resolutions such as the UN CRPD are adopted to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities, but are not implemented. The recommendations given included:

1. All the sustainable development policies should include provisions of including persons with disabilities in the sustainable development process.
2. The member states eliminate the policies that exclude the persons with disabilities from mainstream system.
3. The member states remove the barriers for everybody, including persons with disabilities, from employment, vocational education, self-employment opportunities such as microfinance support and welfare assistance, coercive policies.

### Ensuring that no one is left behind – Lifting people out of poverty and addressing basic needs

The session highlighted the 2030 Agenda’s vision that collaborative partnerships will help deliver a sustainable and transformative change. Committed to ensuring that no one is left without the basic needs required to live a safe, healthy and productive life and empowering communities to benefit from the provision of these services were addressed. Some recommendations produced by participants during the session included[[9]](#footnote-9):

1. To work broadly with other sectors, to improve service delivery, including having better engagement with the private sector around health and nutrition.
2. The global community must put the most marginalized children at the top of the agenda,
3. The global community must address the urgent needs facing education systems by scaling up the reach and finances of educational programs, and to place education at the heart of the global agenda.

During her intervention, Anna MacQuarrie of Inclusion International stressed the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs complying with the UN CRPD. She commented that there needs to be a commitment to a twin-track approach in which disability is not only addressed as a stand-alone issue, but also mainstreamed within all programming. She also asked that as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UN CRPD, that we recognize that the 2030 Agenda will not be realized without the equal participation of persons with disabilities.

### Ensuring that no one is left behind – Fostering economic growth, prosperity, and sustainability

The session had the objective to stimulate discussion on ways to foster economic growth, prosperity and sustainability to implement the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one is left behind. The session presented different perspectives on the economic dimension of sustainable development and the way that economic growth relates to prosperity and sustainability including sustainable consumption and production.

Panelists[[10]](#footnote-10) highlighted that economic sustainability extends beyond the most basic needs of food and shelter and must include concerns that are social and psychological in nature. Economic sustainability must address the pursuit of meaning, identity, and ability to flourish as human beings within the social and environmental limits are encountered by many. A panelist added that there must be increased focus on the most marginalized populations, especially regarding economic, social and intellectual empowerment. Although persons with disabilities were not explicitly referenced during this panel, the focus was on the marginalized populations and thus relevant.

### Side Event

The “**Inclusive and Equitable Education**” side event discussed the structural changes and public policies needed to promote equity, inclusion and to overcome multiple forms of discrimination in and through education, as well as its impact on the achievement of other human rights and the SDGs. Colin Allen, International Disability Alliance (IDA) Chair, highlighted that data on education of children with disabilities is alarmingly difficult to find. The Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children highlights the invisibility of children with disabilities in the data as a barrier to education. Mr. Allen further noted that according to UNICEF reports, 90% of children with disabilities in the developing world do not attend school. Diane Richler former IDA Chair emphasized the importance of effective and available supports for inclusive education and the importance of inclusive schools in promoting social inclusion.

## July 12th, 2016

The second day of the HLPF began with a coordination meeting of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders chaired by Colin Allen, as Co-facilitator of the MGoS, Coordination Mechanism, who provided information and answered questions of stakeholders.

### Ensuring that no one is left behind - Food security and sustainable agriculture, climate action, sustainable oceans and terrestrial ecosystems – adopting a nexus approach

The session identified important interlinkages among the different environmental areas and enumerated possible threats to agriculture, the climate and the oceans and terrestrial ecosystems, which are at the same time negatively affecting food security. The session elaborated on the necessity of using an integrated approach when dealing with this nexus at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels.[[11]](#footnote-11) One of the main recommendations stated that food security considerations should systematically be included in national and international decision-making, especially in relation to climate, agriculture, food security and trade. There were several additional recommendations that involved devising strategies that maximize the food that we take from the ocean while sustaining biodiversity and the need to include communities, especially local governments and stakeholders, such as indigenous and rural communities.

In his intervention Mohamed Ali Loufty of Disabled Persons International, called on governments and the international community to adopt necessary strategies to ensure disability inclusion within disaster relief, food security, and in combatting climate change. Mr. Loufty asked the global community to ensure that persons with disabilities are included within current and future programming and dialogues, not only at the global level, but also within communities.

### Ensuring that no one is left behind: Creating peaceful and more inclusive societies and empowering women and girls

This session addressed the issue of inclusion and inclusiveness, in the context of peaceful societies and of empowerment of women and girls. Practical experiences were shared and discussed with a special focus on youth, refugees and empowering women and girls within peacebuilding processes.[[12]](#footnote-12) Some of the main recommendations included:

1. A prioritization of gender disaggregated data, which is vital for analysis, planning and management. In particular, the 15 indicators under SDG 5 should be taken forward and should form the basis for evidence-based implementation, monitoring and accountability building.
2. A redefinition of conflict, as current conflict is often localized, pluralistic, involves religion, ethnic conflicts and calls for different strategies to augment state-to-state conflict resolution strategies.
3. Sustainable peace is most effectively brought about by including women leaders and women groups in conflict resolution processes.

Ms. Jahda Abou Khalil, Arab Organization of Persons with Disability (AOPD) prepared an intervention however was unable to deliver it due to time constraints. The intervention submitted highlighted that although one in five women have a disability, but development and gender programming continue to exclude women with disabilities. She requested that the international community make a concerted effort to provide accessibility to existing programs to women with disabilities and to increase attention and funding to programming addressing the specific needs of women with disabilities.

### Science-policy interface: New ideas, insights, and solutions

The session explored future opportunities for strengthening the science-policy interface in a variety of contexts, including through the future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR).[[13]](#footnote-13) The 2016 pilot GSDR was presented together with an overview of lessons learned from the GSDR process.[[14]](#footnote-14) Some recommendations included:

1. That the next GSDR be more relevant for policy makers to address emerging issues as well as challenges for implementation from a scientific perspective
2. To provide dedicated content in the GSDR over groups of countries in special situations.
3. To maintain open calls for science-policy briefs on a continuous basis
4. To convene intersessional science meetings

In his intervention, Ambrose Murangira of the Uganda National Association of the Deaf stressed the importance of a multi-dimensional approach and an evolving understanding of access in bridging digital and knowledge divides. Additionally, Mr. Murangira recommended that the international community should ensure by 2030 that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to be agents of change in science and to seek effective ways to resolve information and communications technology challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

### Side Events and Other Engagements

In “**A Human Rights Approach to Combating Inequalities and Discrimination**”, Ms. Yetnebersh Nigussie of Light for the World, stressed the heterogeneous nature of persons with disabilities and the inequalities particularly with women and girls. She elaborated that women and girls with disabilities face higher rates of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation than other girls, and may face violence in their homes, schools, and institutions.

In the high-level side event called “**Is Civil Society Participation Shrinking after the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda?**” Colin Allen, IDA Chair emphasized how civil society engagement from the start in the implementation of the SDGs ensures a people-centered approach and that civil society must have a space to ensure accurate decisions, planning and processes.

A parallel high-level event called “**Combatting Discrimination and Inequalities**,” was organized by the President of the General Assembly on Human Rights, in which Jose Maria Viera of the World Blind Union, as an official panelist stressed that the 2030 Agenda will only be realized when the international community recognizes that discrimination and inequality exists in layers and must work together to ensure that no one is left behind.

Concurrently, Anna MacQuarrie of Inclusion International and Mosharraf Hossain of ADD International attended a high-level discussion with Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and successfully reminded the participants about the situation of children with disabilities.**

At the end of the day, Jose Maria Viera was invited as a special guest to the “**Leading the United Nations: A Global Town hall with UN Secretary-General candidates**” event where he represented the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

## July 13th, 2016

For the third day of the HLPF, four interventions were prepared and submitted by the Stakeholders of Persons with Disabilities Group, however only two were delivered during the respective sessions.

### Creating Ownership at the National Level

This session was based on the principle that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is dependent upon the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Civil society, academia, parliamentarians, local authorities, and businesses together constitute the national landscape, and the session touched upon the ways that all these sectors can work together to create national ownership of the SDGs. Speakers and panelists[[15]](#footnote-15) recommendations included:

1. Creating strong engagement mechanisms to better include marginalized groups in the implementation process such as indigenous, women and other groups.
2. Educating the next generation on the SDGs and including curriculum regarding the SDGs in schools.

Mr. Mohamed Ali Loufty of Disabled People International (DPI) prepared an intervention stating that persons with disabilities acutely know the challenges between policy and practice as reflected by the years of implementing the UN CRPD, and asked the global community to ensure that the SDG implementation at the national level is accessible and fully inclusive of persons with disabilities. Mr. Loufty was not able to deliver his intervention during the session due to time constraints, however it was submitted to the UN DSD.

### Mainstreaming SDGs into national policies, plans and strategies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development

This session provided a space for the Member States and other stakeholders to exchange their views on the success stories and challenges faced in the early implementation of the SDGs at the national level and their integration into policies, plans and strategies. It drew upon the lessons learnt from both the previous gains made in integrated policy-making nationally and from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Representatives shared that many nations have incorporated the SDG targets into their national policies and have instituted national ministries and commissions to facilitate the implementation process. Some of the recommendations that were produced included:[[16]](#footnote-16)

1. There needs to be increased communication and dialogue between line ministries, scientists and experts, civil society, and most importantly with the people on the ground.
2. It is risky and therefore not recommended to break up institutions and may result in loss of accountability.
3. Existing institutions should learn how to incorporate the SDG agenda and be effective implementers
4. Creating new layers of institutions for sustainable development should be avoided.

Mr. Mosharraf Hossain of ADD International prepared and submitted an intervention regarding the critical nature of including persons with disabilities within the national policy-making process. Adding that for marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, the challenges they face and their rights cannot be seen as niche issues.

### Vertical cooperation – local authorities and national governments working together for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

This session focused on how local authorities are central in ensuring the link between the global vision and local policies and actions of citizens, as well as in bringing local relevant initiatives into global policy debates, offering lessons learned and best practices. Emphasizing techniques of how to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, how to enhance vertical cooperation mechanisms, and how to ensure that local authorities are strengthened to deliver on the SDGs. Recommendations included:[[17]](#footnote-17)

1. Local and sub-national authorities must be taken into account and engaged with when formulating national implementation guidelines and policies for the SDGs.
2. Engagement and strong partnership with grassroots organizations must be prioritized for effective and accurate data collection.

Lauro Purcil of the ASEAN Disability Forum spoke of how local authorities are often too underfunded to deliver on the disability-inclusive SDGs commitments. He strongly recommended that the empowerment of local authorities is considered a priority for governments, particularly regarding methods of implementing the SDGs locally with persons with disabilities. Mr. Purcil suggested that governments empower local authorities so that they are able to deliver on the SDG commitments with and for persons with disabilities.

### Challenges in mobilizing means of implementation at national level: financing, technology, capacity building

The session discussed the main challenges in mobilizing means of implementation at the national level. It highlighted the areas of financing for development, science, technology and innovation (STI) and capacity building. A co-chair of the 10-Member Group in support of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism reported on the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs held June 7th - 8th, 2016. This event was also attended by representatives of persons with disabilities. [Link to UN HLPF website](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=20000&nr=318&menu=2993)

The panelists and discussants[[18]](#footnote-18) emphasized the need for stronger and more cohesive national financing frameworks within national strategies to better support the implementation of the SDGs.

In his intervention, Mr. Abdelmajid Makni, the RHRC Morocco Chairperson, discussed how in many countries budgetary allocations for disability are low or nonexistent and asked how the international community could ensure that financing for development and SDG follow-up and review processes could hold governments accountable to ensure that no one is left behind. Due to time constrain this intervention was only submitted.

### Side Event

During the UNICEF side event “**Evaluation in the service of national follow up and review of progress towards the SDGs Evaluation: Service for Future National SDGs Reports**,” Ambrose Murangira, Yetnebersh Nigussie, and Anna MacQuarrie raised questions on how to take steps to ensure no one is left behind and how to link SDG indicators with human rights indicators.

## July 14, 2016

### National Mechanisms for Monitoring Progress and reporting on Implementation for the Achievement of the SDGs

This was the first HLPF after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and 22 countries voluntarily reviewed their progress on the implementation of the SDGs. In conjunction, this session addressed approaches to systematic and effective follow-up, monitoring and review of the SDGs at the national level. In line with other goals, the national review process was encouraged by panelists and discussants[[19]](#footnote-19) to increase the development and utilization of statistics and indicators for sustainable development. There was a general expectation that many more countries will submit voluntary reviews and will engage fully in HLPF 2017.

Ambrose Murangira of the Uganda National Association of the Deaf presented on how national voluntary reviews have missed opportunities to use relevant findings of human rights treaty bodies, which offer evidence over groups left behind. He asked what steps could be taken to ensure that future voluntary national reviews include evidence from these bodies. (His remarks was received with an applause!)

### Making the 2030 Agenda deliver for Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Building on the SAMOA Pathway

The session emphasized the intersectionality between the SAMOA pathway and the 2030 Agenda in terms of content, targets and goals. Climate change and the subsequent consequences of food insecurity, natural disasters and rising oceans, was the central topic of discussion. Discussants[[20]](#footnote-20) highlighted that SIDS are in critical need of support and resources due to having heightened vulnerabilities. In addition, it was suggested that mutual goals of both the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda should produce collaborative networks and genuine partnerships regarding natural disasters. Several recommendations were discussed including:

1. Building the statistical capacity of SIDS
2. Increasing financial investment and trust in investment within SIDS

In his intervention Lauro Purcil of the ASEAN Disability Forum prepared a statement highlighting that the challenges in SIDS nations affect persons with disabilities with greater severity. Particularly within the realm of disaster preparedness and management in which persons with disabilities are de-prioritized and excluded from information, resources and participation. There is a strong push for the equal representation of persons with disabilities in SIDS since the SAMOA Pathway explicitly references persons with disabilities 10 times and in turn the 2030 Agenda explicitly references to persons with disabilities 11 times. The statement was not delivered due to time constraints.

### Countries in Special Situations

This session focused on countries that are considered the most left behind in terms of limited support, resources and in conflict. The discussants[[21]](#footnote-21) highlighted the need to create effective partnerships and mechanisms between the 2030 Agenda and programs of action such as, the Istanbul Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway and other strategies, such as Africa 2063. Discussants and panelists recommended to establish a UN interagency mechanism on middle-income countries in order to provide enhanced analysis of the challenges and needs of these countries.

Mohammed Ali Loutfy of Disabled Peoples International (DPI) emphasized the importance of recognizing marginalized groups in countries in special situations. He asked how countries could share lessons learnt and best practices on including marginalized groups in national development policies and how humanitarian aid can be inclusive of persons with disabilities. He offered expertise and experience of DPOs to support Member States and UN Agencies in designing and implementing humanitarian work.

### Side Events

In the side event “**The Role of Citizens in Data Collection and Accountability toward the HLPF**,” Mosharraf Hossain of ADD International provided the disability perspective on data collection and disaggregation. Mr. Hossain elaborated that the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, has already tested whether the global SDG indicators can be disaggregated by disability in 34 countries. Ambassador Jouni Laaksonen also highlighted that the collection of disaggregated data on disability and the equal participation of **persons with disabilities** in collecting data is vital to implementing SDG goals and targets effectively and efficiently.

## July 15, 2016

### From inspiration to action: Multi-stakeholder engagement for implementation

Reflective of the goals of the HLPF, increased inclusiveness and transparency are needed to effectively implement the SDGs to their fullest aim.[[22]](#footnote-22) It was recognized during the session that civil society has been critical in moving the SDGs forward and will be equally vital in the implementation. Concerted effort must continue to be made to enhance the voice of all the stakeholders within decision making by providing adequate resources for their participation. Equally public information must be made accessible. As stated by the Secretary-General in his summary of the HLPF, “Inclusiveness means that all people can participate as partners, rights-holders and full citizens, not as subjects or mere beneficiaries. Relevant international instruments often exist, such as the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities, but are not always respected.”

Yetnebersh Nigussie, of Light for the World presented a summary on how the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities worldwide, engaged at national level in the voluntary national reviews. She highlighted the challenges and barriers faced by persons with disabilities in SDG implementation at the national level.

### Regional Experiences

This interactive dialogue focused on experiences in implementing the SDGs thus far at the regional level. Regional forums on sustainable development have been constituted in all the five regions and are already active in mobilizing Member States of each region, together, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These forums will be a key part of the follow-up and review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, establishing a link between national and global processes.[[23]](#footnote-23)

Jose Maria Viera spoke on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities about the experience of DPOs engaging at regional levels.

### Other events

During a breakfast event hosted by the Baha’i International Community on the topic of **“Genuine stakeholder engagement for effective implementation and review: the national level lens,”** findings from informal surveys that were conducted by different constituencies were presented. The gathered information was about the level of participation of different communities (persons with disabilities, older persons, among others) in the national SDG implementation process. The surveys inquired how information is being shared with these actors, if they were aware of the engagement of their governments at the national review process, and if spaces were created for their engagement and participation. Since the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities was one of the main organizers of the event, this was an excellent platform to inform participants and to have an informal dialogue on the challenges that persons with disabilities face in the national implementation of the SDGs.

## July 18th, 2016

The second week of the HLPF was the designated ministerial segment and the main focus was on the voluntary national reviews on the progress towards the SDG implementation. On the first day a summary was given with regards to the thematic discussions of the previous week afterwards the General Debate started where Member States presented statements.

### Parallel Events

The Sustainable Development Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development asks the global community to "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development." This Goal recognizes that multi-stakeholder partnerships are important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.

The Partnership Exchange event served as a forum to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, providing a platform for multi-stakeholder partnerships, government officials, United Nations, major groups and other stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for the 2016 Partnership Exchange was "Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through multi-stakeholder partnerships - ensuring that no one is left behind", in line with the theme of the High-level Political Forum in 2016.

The detailed summary and report of the meeting can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange>

Additionally, the following multi-stakeholder partnerships were created during the HLPF 2016: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

Ambrose Murangira of the Uganda National Association of the Deaf contributed to the discussion, calling for all partnerships in the implementation of the SDGs to be inclusive. Specifically, he stated that "we all need to take steps towards universal design and reasonable accommodation".

**Side events**

At the **High-Level side event** hosted by the Netherlands, Kenya, and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) titled “**Early action to Leave No One Behind: delivering for the world’s poorest people**,” IDA's Chair Colin Allen, was invited to present as only one of two civil society panelists. Mr. Allen presented alongside the Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, and Ambassador Oh Joon, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, as well as ministers and senior representatives from Albania, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom, as well as the World Bank, UNICEF and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The High-Level side event centered on the impact and effectiveness of early investment and strategies on bringing forward the furthest behind. A core aspect of the event were the pledges made by Governments (and civil society) to ensure no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. Mr. Allen emphasized the importance of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participating directly in initiatives and programs, and the dangers of being left out of discussions and decision-making, which had left persons with disabilities behind during the implementation of the MDGs. In addition, Mr. Allen pledged that annually, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities would engage, mobilize and build capacity of disability movements nationally with a particular focus on countries giving voluntary national reports at the High-level Political Forum. As a result, within three years the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities would produce a comprehensive step-by-step guide for governments on how to ensure inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the SDG implementation in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities organized a town hall-style discussion at the Ford Foundation in New York on the topic of “**The Contribution of Persons with Disabilities in the Voluntary National Reviews to the HLPF: Examples from Germany, Latin America, Morocco, the Philippines and Uganda,”** to discuss the experiences and barriers faced by DPOs in participating with government in implementing the SDGs. Eight panelists from the Stakeholder Group, drew on their experiences from seven countries across all global regions. The discussion was moderated by Yetnebersh Nigussie of Light for the World Ethiopia. Representatives of UN Member States and [Agencies](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/102), as well as wider civil society, took part in the discussion, sharing similar challenges and opportunities of effective engagement and partnerships. Among the respondents to the panel were a Representative of Norway and Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the [European Disability Forum](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/67) and former IDA Chair.

The first ministerial day concluded with two events: IDA Chair Colin Allen participated at a dinner event hosted by the **Permanent Mission of the UK to the United Nations.** Yetnebresh Niguisse and Jose Maria Viera represented the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at a ministerial reception held by the **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.**

# Voluntary National Reviews

During the ministerial week of the HLPF, 22 countries presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) regarding their countries progress on the implementation of the SDGs. It was the first time and also historical that a review of this nature was conducted. Prior to the review, Member States deliberated over month on the modalities of the review. Major groups and other stakeholders were part of these discussions and aimed to ensure that the VNRs were conducted in an inclusive, open and transparent manner, through the active engagement of stakeholders.

Consequently, throughout the entire VNRs, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities was present, actively engaged and contributed in the statement writing and asked questions to government representatives on behalf of the major groups and other stakeholders.

In the voluntary national reviews, persons with disabilities were consistently referenced, mostly in relation with topics of education, climate change, employment and gender equity. During the delivery of the national reviews at the HLPF, 8 (out of 22) countries made explicit references and/or reported on to the rights and participation of persons with disabilities in their national implementation of the SDGs; these countries were Egypt, Finland, France, Madagascar, Morocco, Norway, Sierra Leone, and Samoa. From the written reports of Member States 17 (out of 22) referenced persons with disabilities. In particular, Republic of Korea, Venezuela, Egypt, Montenegro and Germany devoted an entire chapter or made substantive reference to persons with disabilities in their national context. This high prevalence of references to persons with disabilities is a result of national and global advocacy efforts and collaboration.

## July 19th, 2016

### Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Switzerland

During the first session, the governments of Morocco and Sierra Leone highlighted the rights of persons with disabilities as a priority issue for their countries’ development goals.

Mr. Abdulmajid Makni, the RHRC Morocco Chairperson, delivered the first intervention on behalf of all Major Groups and other Stakeholders during the first Voluntary National Reviews. He recommended to all five governments to ensure the meaningful engagement of those groups that are most discriminated against and face the largest barriers to participation, such as feminist and women’s organizations, young people and youth-led organizations, persons with disabilities, LGBT groups, indigenous peoples, environmental and human rights defenders and migrant populations, among others.

### Georgia, Germany Madagascar, Norway, Turkey

During the delivery of their reviews, both the governments of Madagascar and Norway stated that their development policies have an increased focus on the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities. The representative of Madagascar addressed that persons with disabilities were active contributors during the drafting of Madagascar’s voluntary national review and the platform of persons with disabilities can be found in Annex 2 within the full version of their submitted country review.[[24]](#footnote-24) Norway additionally stated that it was enhancing high-quality education and equal employment opportunities for young people and those at risk of marginalization, including refugees and persons with disabilities.

### Finland, Samoa, Uganda

The Finnish and Samoan governments discussed their countries commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their national implementation plans. Finland spoke to its belief of engaging and strengthening multi-stakeholder approaches, mentioning that it wished to extend outreach efforts to children, youth, immigrants and people with disabilities. The Finnish government added that it was interested in how other countries have included these groups in the implementation. **During the Ugandan national review, the only comment raised by Major Groups and other Stakeholders concerned the Ugandan government’s perceived apathy towards addressing the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, health, employment, accessibility, social protection and means of implementation.**

### Side Events

During a side event hosted by the UK and the Ugandan Governments on “**Leaving no-one Behind - From Promise to Reality,**” Mr. Ambrose Murangira, of the Uganda National Association of the Deaf, presented on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Murangira highlighted that within Uganda, many populations have been left behind, including women, children, youth, older people, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities (including persons with albinism), single parents, and people from remote geographic areas. He elaborated that as a global community we have a common concern for ensuring that the rights of persons in these groups are realized, so that they can benefit equitably from – and contribute fully to – Uganda’s development, in line with the ambitions of the SDGs and of Vision 2040. Mr. Murangira critically emphasized that while the Ugandan government is making concerted progress towards ensuring these groups gain from development programmes, there remains more emphasis on economic empowerment rather than tackling harmful social norms and discriminatory attitudes shown to be a critical reason why some people are left behind.

## July 20th, 2016

### Estonia, Philippines, Togo

The government of Togo expressed its commitment to strengthening and increasing the economic and social protections for vulnerable populations.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disability collaborated with other representatives of the major groups and other Stakeholders, to deliver 9 joint statements throughout the reviews, consistently highlighting the rights of persons with disabilities. One of the two joint statements developed, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities collaborated on a statement delivered to the Government of the Philippines.

### China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Republic of Korea, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

As a result of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disability’s collaboration with Major Groups and other stakeholders on the second joint statement, the government of Venezuela, was explicitly asked “Has the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela undertaken measures to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the SDGs?”

### General Debate

During the General Debate the heads of government delegations- usually ministerial level- attending the HLPF deliver a statement on the main theme. Only six representative of civil society were chosen to deliver statements in front of the ministers. IDA Chair, Colin Allen presented during the General Debate prior to adopting the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF. He emphasized the work accomplished by DPOs in many of the volunteering countries, and expressed the willingness and availability of DPOs to work together with all governments in implementing the SDGs. Specifically, he stated that "DPOs are looking for opportunities to work with governments, and many are being turned away. Public consultations often exclude persons with disabilities themselves and their representative organizations, because persons with disabilities encounter barriers as lack of reasonable accommodation to participate fully in designing, implementing and reviewing national development programs."

### Closing Session

José Maria Viera spoke during the closing session highlighting that "Quality technology means accessible technology for all. National implementation of the SDGs must happen with the people. The right to participate has to include all people and to guarantee this we have to government private sector and civil society. We recognize the efforts made at global level we need now to make sure that that voice is heard at the regional national and local level. We need to make sure that we engage human rights organizations and other partners. SDGs are more than development. Is making sure that all human rights are fulfilled and we feel that we are all included. We need to bridge scientists with policy makers and social leaders to make sure that all goals are achieved with political will and data disaggregation with participation of civil society otherwise the 2030 Agenda will not be a reality for all of us."

# Ministerial Declaration

The ministerial declaration was negotiated by Peru and Australia. During the intergovernmental negotiations major groups and other stakeholders were invited to make interventions and deliver/submit concrete language recommendations to the actual draft text. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities participated in the intergovernmental negotiations and made 3 statements. As a result, the ministerial declaration explicitly references persons with disabilities so that Member States commit to ensure that no one is left behind and they promise to focus their efforts where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind. Also Member States deem it of critical importance, to protect and empower people who are vulnerable. Further they also highlight the importance of participatory and inclusive implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at all levels and acknowledge the contribution of different groups, including civil society as critical as their participation supports accountability to citizens and enhances the effectiveness of Government action, fostering synergies, multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation, and the exchange of best practices and mutual learning. Finally, one of the key elements of the ministerial declaration is on the significance of data.

The first ministerial declaration of the HLPF was adopted with a vote, because the representative of Nicaragua disagreed with the paragraph on welcoming the climate change agreement.

The adopted ministerial declaration can be found here: <http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLS/2016/1&Lang=E>

# Accessibility of the HLPF

Representatives of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities included a diversity of disabilities, requiring different reasonable accommodations for full participation during the HLPF. Despite staff of the UN DSD being highly responsive to resolving access barriers, the UN building structure and lack of adequate preparation created consistent barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities. Listed below are some of the main concerns that were brought to the attention of the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Lenni Montiel.

* The majority of sessions were held in a theatre style room where the designated seat for persons with disabilities was located on the balcony. Between the entrance and the seat there were stairs and therefore inaccessible for wheelchair users. The tight seating arrangement posed additional challenges to position sign interpreters where they were visible.
* Microphone and translation devices attached to seats were inaccessible to wheelchair users sitting in the gallery.
* Portable audio translation devices are not consistently provided for wheelchair users sitting in the gallery, as well as for sign language interpreters for deaf participants.
* There are limited accessible outlets to charge wheelchairs and other devices in meeting rooms.
* The Accessibility Centre and its services are not widely known and needs to be promoted and more widely used.
* The United Nations website does not include easy-to-read language options.
* Information on quiet spaces for persons with psychosocial disabilities to use is not readily available, such as the meditation room.
* In terms of safety and security, no emergency evacuation plan inclusive of persons with disabilities exists.
* Staff members have a low level of understanding about accessibility standards, including universal design and reasonable accommodation, and the impact in process and practice of these concepts.
* No bathroom facilities or conference rooms have disability-accessible doors. The majority of rooms had floors with thick carpeting making it difficult for wheelchair users and blind and low vision persons to circulate.
* Specific seats for persons with disabilities with ample space to maneuver either with or without wheelchairs were not reserved.
* There were no reserve wheelchairs within and around the UN premise
* There is inconsistent Braille signage and no building models for visually impaired/blind people.
* There is limited capacity of conference services to provide captioning in languages such as French, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

In response to the letter, a representative of the IDA/CBM secretariat met with the UN representative tasked with the responsibility of creating greater access at the UN. Subsequent meetings have been scheduled to continue the dialogue in creating greater accessibility within the UN. Concrete steps forward have been initiated such as identifying sessions during HLPF 2017 where International Sign Language interpretation will be provided.

# Post-HLPF Survey Summary

After the HLPF, the secretariat developed an anonymous survey to assess the satisfaction of the representatives of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. Out of the 22 participating representatives, 11 responses were received. Recommendations received were:

* Respondents asked for greater number of organizations working at the grassroots level.
* Some additionally asked for constructive discussions throughout the year regarding what was discussed at HLPF using different outlets.
* Several requested that the group coordinate bilateral meetings with the other major groups to build relationships and to build partnerships for next year’s HLPF.
* Finally, a respondent requested assistance to coordinate and assist country level stakeholders to support making an impact at the national level.
* Respondents commented on needing to develop a stronger and more efficient governance structure within the Stakeholder Group to improve the presence and coordination of persons with disabilities at HLPF 2017.
* Additionally, some respondents noted that the Stakeholder Group should have more time to coordinate their interventions.
* Many respondents requested that there be increased gender balance.

# Political Analysis

The HLPF 2016 was a litmus test on whether the Forum will be able to provide a platform for meaningful discussions and accordingly further strengthen the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. While this was a pilot year, we must acknowledge that the HLPF has the potential to fulfill the role of a strong monitoring mechanism/body in which national reviews and thematic exchange are taking place. The Forum can provide the space in which grassroots organizations can meaningful participate and bring global attention to relevant good practices and challenges.

Governments took the Forum seriously, attended with well prepared, large and high-level delegations. The Forum was used to connect, share experiences and contribute to the discussions. Consequently, a number of partnerships were established. The majority of the volunteering countries prepared their national reports ahead of the meeting, providing proper time for participants to engage in the review process. Despite the intergovernmental nature of the Forum, it was conducted as a multi-stakeholder platform, that provided space for all kinds of actors to participate, intervene and deliver speeches.

Persons with disabilities took full advantage of all opportunities and not only contributed, but also acquired knowledge and demonstrated that they are a highly organized and professionally well prepared group. Prior to the HLPF, persons with disabilities mobilized, engaged at the national level in their country’s voluntary review process and report writing. As a significant result, 17 out of the 22 volunteering countries, included persons with disabilities in their written reports. In addition, despite the short oral presentation time, eight countries included persons with disabilities in their statements at the HLPF. The engagement of persons with disabilities was additionally reflected at the global level and during the Forum in a variety of events. Moreover, Member States, the UN and other actors recognized persons with disabilities several times at the Forum as one of the most organized and well prepared stakeholder groups.

The HLPF provided a global venue in which the disability community could connect, was an initial great learning opportunity on how to draw attention to national challenges in the global arena, and provided new options to strengthen UN CRPD implementation within the SDG framework and development policies and programmes. As stated in the official HLPF summary the President of the HLPF stated that “Inclusiveness means that all people can participate as partners, rights-holders and full citizens, not as subjects or mere beneficiaries. Relevant international instruments often exist, such as the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities, but are not always respected.” The HLPF also ensured that a wide range of disability organizations collaborated and the participants represented the cross-disability sector. During the Forum, initial steps were taken to formalize the establishment of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, which up to that point only existed on an ad-hoc level.

Next Steps and Recommendations

*HLPF 2017*

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will be held from Monday, 10 July to Wednesday, 19 July 2017; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017. The HLPF 2017 will be presided by the ECOSOC President H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The theme will be “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.” The set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year:

* **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
* **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
* **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
* **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
* **Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
* **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

*Preparatory Process for HLPF 2017*

* Discuss with DPOs and allies on what to achieve on the HLPF 2017 theme
* Convene a working group that will draft and initiate broad consultation to carry out an official submission by persons with disabilities on the HLPF 2017 theme
* Develop of main messages to be communicated at the HLPF 2017
* Consider side events to be organized by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities
* Develop participation and funding strategies to ensure a gender-balanced, geographical-balanced, and diverse representation of persons with disabilities, particularly of grassroots DPOs
* Secure funding and resources, including translation fees, event organizing, and more
* Coordinate, participate and share information better in the regional multi-stakeholder platforms
* Develop a strategic approach toward the participation in the voluntary national reports with the emphasis to empower the involvement of national DPOs (strong participation in national multi-stakeholder consultations; reasonable accommodation for participants with disabilities; exchange of knowledge between national DPOs and global advocates; consultations to analyze the written national submissions; close collaboration with grassroots DPOs during the HLPF for urgent feedback; and so forth)
* Support for the submission of parallel reports
* Ensure that the new form of web-based interfaces is accessible and persons with disabilities are able to participate in an effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization
* Address the accessibility challenges of the HLPF 2016 to create a more inclusive and accessible HLPF 2017
* Participate meaningfully in events that directly feed into HLPF 2017, including:
  + The first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue during the upcoming high level session of the General Assembly. The High-Level Breakfast Event will take place on 22 September, 2016 from 8am to 9:30am at the West Terrace on the fourth floor of the UN General Assembly Building.
  + The second annual multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) will be held from 15-16 May 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. For more information, please visit [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/STIForum](https://owa.cbm.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=33tmXVomRkaTT6zUWBWKyqyby6_C4NMI8qAuPdRzZZAanqkhnVXUN_qR6TsPlddKws9YM1zkMjs.&URL=https%3a%2f%2fsustainabledevelopment.un.org%2fTFM%2fSTIForum" \t "_blank)
  + The Partnership Forum 2017

*HLPF 2018*

The theme for HLPF 2018 will be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” and the set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year:

* **Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
* **Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
* **Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
* **Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
* **Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

*HLPF 2019*

The theme for HLPF 2019 will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” and the set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year:

* **Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
* **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
* **Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
* **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
* **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

*Reporting of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at the HLPF*

The HLPF provides not only a platform for effective engagement, but also obliges stakeholders, explicitly naming persons with disabilities, to report on their contribution in the SDG implementation. This was requested by the 2030 Agenda (paragraph 89) that states that “the high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.” This is further reiterated in resolution A/70/L.60 that calls “to major groups and stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”

The opportunity to present on behalf of persons with disabilities should be well planned and carefully prepared. Some reporting guidelines are in place that were developed by the major groups and other stakeholders on how to report on the achievements in front of the HLPF. These need to be carefully reviewed and on this basis, a decision with a timeline for the next 14 years needs to be agreed upon by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. Volunteering to report will be a similar process than that of Member States. As first step, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities needs to inform the President of ECOSOC (of the respective year) and consequently will be provided with a deadline by when to submit a short (three pages) and long report (open ended). Additionally, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities will be invited to make an oral presentation at the HLPF and all in attendance will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Additional Information

High-level Political Forum – general: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

High-level Political Forum 2016: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016>

Voluntary National Reviews 2016: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

High-level Political Forum 2017: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/HLPF>

Stakeholder engagement: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

Multi-stakeholder partnerships: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction>

Contact Information

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1. HLPF Official Summary: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10858SummaryPresident%202016%20HLPF%20FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 2012 during the Rio+20 Conference, persons with disabilities were recognized as other stakeholders meaning that they received the same rights as major groups and can contribute to all sustainable development processes at the UN. Regarding the HLPF, the major groups and other stakeholders created a coordination mechanism to regulate their participation and contribution to the HLPF. Within this mechanism, persons with disabilities are officially referred to as the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A/RES/67/290 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. At the time of the report in September 12th 2016, 19 out of the 22 volunteering countries had submitted both short and long reports. Out of the 19 countries with full reports, the following 17 referenced persons with disabilities directly. Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Egypt, Finland, France, Madagascar, Morocco, Norway, Sierra Leone, and Samoa [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities was represented by the following individuals during the 2016 HLPF from July 10th-July 19th, 2016: Ibrahim Abdullah, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Lebanon, Colin Allen, International Disability Alliance and World Federation of the Deaf, Australia, Grace Antwi-Atsu, Sightsavers, Ghana, Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers, UK, Javier Guemes, ONCE, Spain, Michael Herbst, CBM Germany, Germany, Yumi Sera, Disability Rights Fund, United States, Mosharraf Hossain, ADD International, Bangladesh, Jahda Abou Khalil, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Lebanon, Connie Laurin-Bowie, Inclusion International, Canada, Mohammed Ali Loufty, Arab Forum for the Rights of Disabilities, Lebanon, Anna Macquarrie, Inclusion International, Canada, Abdelmajid Makni, Moroccan Collective to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Morocco, Ambrose Murangira, Uganda National Association of the Deaf, Uganda, Yetnebersh Nigussie, Light for the World, Ethiopia, Nagase Osamu, Inclusion International, Japan, Lauro Purcil, Asean Disability Forum, Philippines, Fred Smith, Sightsavers, UK, Yannis Vardakastanis, European Disability Forum, Greece and EU, José Maria Viera, World Blind Union, Argentina [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Link to 2016 SDG Report: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Moderator: Ms. Lisa Foster from the United States Department of Justice: Speakers and panelists: Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chair of Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals and Ms. Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). H.E. Mr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations and Chair of the 54th session of the Commission for Social Development [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Speakers included: Ms. Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, Mr. Michael Park, Director of Strategy and Operations of the Aspen Management Partnership for Health at the Aspen Institute, and lead discussants Cristina Diez, Director of International Relations Training at the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Chief of Staff and Head of the 2020 Vision Initiative at the International Food Policy Research Institute. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Mr. Tim Jackson, Director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) and Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey and Mr. Bart Verspagen, Director-Dean of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) at Maastricht University and Director of United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). With discussants Mr. Dyborn Chibonga, Chief Executive Officer at the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) and Mr. Wellington Chibebe, Deputy General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Roundtable members: Ms. Deborah Fulton, Secretary at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Ms. Evelyn Nguleka, President, World Farmers' Organization, Ms. Omoyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel, President of the Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change, Mr. Jake Rice, Chief Scientist – Emeritus at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Lead panelists: Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Diretor of UN Women, Ms. Beatrice Ayuru, Founder of Lira Integrated School, Mr. Robert J. Berg, Chair of the Alliance for Peacebuilding and Trustee at the World Academy of Arts and Science. The session also had discussants such as Ms. Anca-Ruxandra Gliga, Advocate at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Ms. Gaia Gozzo, Head of Governance at CARE International. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Link to 2016 GSDR: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2016> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Presenter of the pilot GSDR 2016: Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Moderator: Ms. Lucilla Spini, Head of Science Programmes of the International Council for Science (ICSU) Roundtable Members: Mr. Gueladio Cisse, Head of the Ecosystem Health Sciences Unit at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Mr. E. William Colglazier, Senior Scholar at the Center for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mr. Aurélien Decamps, Assistant Professor at Kedge Business School, Sustainability Literacy Test and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) Mr. Donovan Guttieres, Focal Point for the Youth Science-Policy Interface Platform of UN Major Group for Children and Youth and Policy Focal Point for the Youth Gateway, the Global Youth Partnership for the SDG, Mr. Peter Messerli, Director and Professor for Sustainable Development, Centre for Development and Environment, Institute of Geography, University of Bern, Switzerland, Mr. Patrick Paul Walsh, Professor and Chair of International Development Studies of the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ms. Jessica Espey, Associate Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Mr. Yonglong Lu, Professor at State Key Laboratory of Urban and Regional Ecology, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. Louis Meuleman, Senior Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and Wageningen University, Netherlands , Ms. Annika Lindblom, Counsellor to the Ministry of the Environment, Finland, Mr. Ivane Shamugia, Head of the Donor Coordination Unit, Administration of the Government of Georgia, Mr. Adolfo Ayuso, Deputy Director General for Internationals Affairs at the Office of the President of Mexico, Mr. Gomer Padong, Development Cooperation and Advocacy Director of the Philippine Social Enterprise Network [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Mr. Nick Ishmael Perkins, Director of SciDev.net, H.E. Mr. Koichi Aiboshi, Assistant Vice-Minister for Global Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, Mr. Joseph Enyimu, Economist at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda, Ms. Wardarina, Programme Officer from Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development/part of Women Major Group/Co-Chair of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, Mr. Izzet Ari, Head of Department, Environment and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Development, Turkey, Ms. Eili Lepik, Adviser on sustainable development issues at the Strategy Unit, Government Office, Estonia, Mr. Olivier Brochenin, Director of the Development Policy Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, Ms. Stine Lise Hattestad Bratsberg, CEO of PURE Consulting [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Mr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Mr. Peter Wollaert, Associated Fellow of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Managing Director of CIFAL Flanders, Ms. Patrícia Iglecias, State Secretary for Environment for the State of Sao Paulo, Mr. Hyuk-Sang Sohn, Professor at Kyung Hee University and President, Korean Association of International Development & Cooperation (KAIDEC), Mr. Stephan Contius, Head of Division at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany, H.E. Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Deputy Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines, Ms. Paddy Torsney, Permanent Observer of the Office of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the UN [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Co-Chair, STI Forum, Mr. Manuel Montes, Senior Advisor of Finance and Development at the South Centre, Mr. Paulo Gadelha, President of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz and member of the 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, Mr. Felipe Castro, Technical Secretary for the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Colombia, H.E. Mr. Mawussi Djossou Semondji, Expert Minister to the Presidency of Togo, Mr. Paul Gulleik Larsen, Project Manager in the UN Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, Mr. Sun Chengyong, Counsellor at the Department of Science and Technology for Social Development, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Mr. David O’Connor, Representative to the UN, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Mr. Johannes Paul Jütting, Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat within the OECD’s Development Co-operation Directorate, Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Head of the Philippine Statistics Authority, Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General of South Africa, Mr. Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, H.E. Mr. Milorad Scepanovic, Director-General from the General Directorate of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. H.E. Mr. Sven Jürgenson, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN and Vice President of ECOSOC

    Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson, Former UN Assistant Secretary General and Executive Coordinator for Rio+20 and former Minister for Energy and Environment of Barbados, Mr. Anote Tong, Former President of the Republic of Kiribati, Mr. David Smith, Coordinator at the University of Consortium for Small Island States, and the Institute for Sustainable Development, the University of the West Indies, Ms. Justina Langidrik, Chief Secretary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director of the Global Island Partnership [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. H.E. Mr. Hector Alejandro Palma Cerna, Deputy-Permanent Representative of Honduras to the UN and Vice President of ECOSOC, Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director at the Center on International Cooperation, New York University, USA, Mr. Youba Sokona, Special advisor on sustainable development of the South Centre LDC Independent Expert Group, IPCC, South Centre, Mr. Jean-Marc Châtaigner, Deputy Executive Director of the French Research Institute for Development (IRD), Ms. Marina Djernaes, Director of the EcoPeace Center of Environmental Peacebuilding, EcoPeace Middle East, Mr. Claudio Huepe Minoletti, Professor and Coordinator of the Energy and Sustainable Development Centre, Universidad Diego Portales, Mr. Stephen Chacha Tumbo, Founder of the Africa Philanthropic Foundation and member of Africa CSOs Working Group [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN and Vice President of ECOSOC,Ms. Barbara Adams, Senior Policy Advisor at the Global Policy Forum, H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations; Chief Negotiator of the Outcome Document of the Second High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, Mr. Berry Vbranovic, Mayor of the City of Kitchener, Ms. Norma Munguia Aldaraca, Director General for Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ms. Joan Carling, Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Ms. Yvonne Harz-Pitre, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the International Fertilizer Industry Association, H.E. Amb. Sarah Mendelson, U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Mr. Marco Marzano de Marinis, Secretary General of the World Farmers’ Organisation, Mr. Alok Rath, Country Director Uganda and South Sudan of VSO International, Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Board Director of Gray Panthers, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, Ms. Mabel Bianco, President of Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer, Ms. Yetnebersh Nigussie, Senior Advocate at Light for the World, Ms. Harriet Ludwig, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the German Federal Government, Ms. Annisa Tryanti, Focal Point on Disaster Risk Reduction at the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, Ms. Antonia Wulff, Coordinator at Education International, H.E. Amb. Carlos Sergio Sobral Duarte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Mr. Guéladio Cissé, Member of the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science of the International Council for Science at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Mr. Inge Herman Rydland, Special Representative on the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN and President of ECOSOC, H. E. Mr. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Forum and Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka, H.E. Ms. Ghada Waly, Minister of Social Solidarity, Egypt, relating the outcome of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, H.E. Mr. Janis Karklins, Chair of the ECE Regional Forum and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations in Geneva, H. E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Forum and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Mr. Amjad Mohammad Saleh Al-Moumani, relating the outcome of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development - 2016, Deputy Permanent Representative Of the Mission of Jordan to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Badre Eddine Allali, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector of the League of Arab States, H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai, Thailand, Coordinator on the Sustainable Development Goals of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), H.E. Ms. Sherman-Peter, Permanent Observer of CARICOM to the United Nations, Mr. Christian Friis-Bach, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECE and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Ms. Alicia Barcena, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Ms. Giovanie Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery of ECA [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Madagascar Full Review (French): <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10723Madagascar_Final%20Version.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)