



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

## **Key Recommendations for 2030 Agenda national review process, HLPF 2016**

From March to June 2016, detailed analysis was gathered from national civil society organizations (CSOs) within 13 out of the 22 countries under voluntary review at the High Level Political Forum. Based on these summaries, we have considered the depth of participation and set out recommendations to improve the inclusion of civil society in the national implementation process of the 2030 Agenda.

Key recommendations:

### **1. Protection of civil society and civic space**

For effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda we need a strong civil society, which stands as an equal partner with governments and retains a seat at the table. But at this time, we are witnessing increasing attacks against civil society in many countries around the globe.

Shrinking civic space affects people's ability to voice their opinions, share their expertise and raise their demands; we stand in solidarity and insist that fundamental freedoms are guaranteed to ensure that every voice is heard.

### **2. Coordination of civil society at national level, led by strong local networks**

Delivery, monitoring and review of this agenda requires independent voices, these must be supported by self-organized alliances across all parts of civil society, to enable coordination of evidence-based messages. These should build from already existing collective dynamics, networks and coalitions that are emerging in each context.

Information exchanges, collective advocacy and bottom-up strategies are crucial to the success of this new agenda.

### **3. Monitoring and review by civil society**

Civil society should play a meaningful role in setting indicators, implementation and delivery strategies as well as monitoring and reviewing the implementation, by providing key findings that are both heard and heeded.

Citizen generated data provided by civil society provides valuable insights and should be integrated into national review processes.

The country commitments under review at the HLPF should also be considered in reference to latest Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council.

#### 4. Timely and meaningful consultation processes

To ensure valuable insights and expertise is included, governments must move beyond tokenistic consultation and move towards participatory implementation and monitoring. It is crucial to include the voices of diverse communities in all relevant official processes.

Furthermore, these consultation processes should be carried out in a timely way to ensure appropriate time for engagement and full consultation. CSO reports should be included on the official UN DESA website.

#### 5. A dedicated lead body in the government to provide strategic oversight

In order to ensure effective dialogue and to enhance mutual understanding, a high-level point of contact (eg. executive office of the Head of State or Head of Government, or an inter-ministerial committee) must be appointed to provide strategic oversight and coordination for the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, the Agenda should be mainstreamed across all policy areas and sufficient resources should be allocated at all levels for effective implementation.

#### 6. Co-design of SDG country level implementation to set out a transformative agenda

Finally, we look forward to the fulfilment of the promise of a truly transformative agenda; this requires a shift away from the current unsustainable and unjust model, stepping back from extremism, war and conflict towards a truly just, peaceful, tolerant and sustainable world. This will also require a recognition of the universal nature of the agenda and a consequent shift in approach in countries that are considered more industrially developed, not just in external and foreign policy but also in domestic implementation.

Civil society plays a fundamental role in achieving this transformation. The engagement of all stakeholders in each step of the process and inclusive opportunities for sharing expertise will ensure successful holistic approaches to SDG implementation. There should be specific guidelines

for participation of civil society in the national reviews provided by relevant UN agencies and regional commissions.

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'Action for Sustainable Development' is an ambitious new platform that brings together over 650 civil society organisations and activists from around the world, particularly from the global South; who have come together over the past year and are working closely with national partners in many countries in every region to build opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, sharing innovative approaches and taking action to ensure vital delivery of a transformative agenda.