**Background Paper 10 July pre- HLPF Preparatory Meeting**

**Engagement opportunities for Major Groups and other Stakeholders at the High Level Political Forum HLPF (2016)**

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2016 will be held from **11 to 20 July**, on the theme **“Ensuring that no one is left behind”**. For meaningful participation in the HLPF, it is crucial for Major Group and other Stakeholders gain an understanding of how to navigate the system for building strategic relationships with each other, member states, UN entities and other stakeholders.

This background paper is aimed at providing a review of the programme, outlining opportunities for participation and coordination available during 2016 HLPF.

**High Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

The outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20): The Future We Want, established a new high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) as an universal intergovernmental forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive multi-stakeholder working methods of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other frameworks related to sustainable development (i.e. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, etc.). The **2016 HLPF is the first** since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The **Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform** provides relevant information about the Processes and UN Systems leading upto HLPF <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

The **10 July 2016 MGoS HLPF Preparatory meeting** is a **true opportunity for networking, collaboration and coordination among MGoS** to **advocate**, **intervene and participate effectively** with each other and with member states during the forum.

**MGoS role in HLPF**

The engagement process for the MGoS with the HLPF organizational aspects are contained in **General Assembly resolution 67/290 (operative paragraphs 14-16)**. The **resolution decides** that MGoS will be allowed:

**(a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;**

**(b) To have access to all official information and documents;**

**(c) To intervene in official meetings;**

**(d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;**

**(e) To make recommendations;**

**(f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.**

Established in 2016**,** the **MGoS Coordination Mechanism (HLPF CM)** ensures broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation of MGoS in the HLPF, as well as upholding MGoS’ rights of access and inclusive participation as mandated in **A/RES/67/290**. See [Terms of Reference HLPF CM](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WlvFgY9Tczo3tgt5xFDvctvxiCbMKNEAXRlxDVYrgpo/edit?pref=2&pli=1).

The HLPF CM facilitated an  [Expert Group Meeting (EGM)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9976EGMApril2016DraftConceptNote.pdf) on 19 April 2016 with the objective to provide MGoS with an opportunity to discuss and share; views on strategies and approaches for operationalizing MGoS participation in the HLPF; and reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and as equal participants in organisation of the HLPF preparatory meeting. The highlights and recommendations leading up to the HLPF- preparatory meeting are captured in the [EGM summary](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10132EGM-Summary_Comments_11May_final.pdf).

 **HLPF 2016 Progamme Review**

The 2016 session will include **voluntary reviews** of **22 countries** and thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues, supported by reviews by the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums. Included will be a range of side events, a [Partnership Exchange event](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange), [SDGs Learning, Training and Practice sessions](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/SDGsLearning) and a [SDG Business Forum](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=20000&nr=390&menu=2993).

A **free HLPF mobile App** is available for downloading from Apple Storeand Google Play. It provides real time information on 230 + official meetings, special events, side events and learning sessions during the 8 days in New York. It also allows for check in, photographs and other participatory functionalities.

MGoS will have space for **daily morning briefings and caucusing** with a designated space for coordination. This will act as **the hub** to plan and synchronise shadow reports, presentations for informal informals, panel discussions and others and will be the place to seek guidance, support and peers support.

**Free wifi** is available at UN HQ. Please note that **all official meetings will be webcast** at <http://webtv.un.org/>. Please check the [Information Note for Participants](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10605Information%20Note%20for%20Participants_v8.pdf) (PDF) and HLPF App for information related to **disability access, registration and support services**.

**Opportunities for participation and collaboration**

There will be ample opportunities during the 11-15 July Expert Group meeting and 15-18 July Ministerial meetings for **MGoS members to present and interact at the end of each session**:

(i) EXPERT GROUP AND MINISTERIAL SESSIONS

* The details of each speaker with concept note for each event are available at [Draft integrated official Programme with speakers](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10425HLPF%202016%20Programme.pdf) (PDF) and [Programme Concept Notes](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10515Concept%20notes%20-%20FOR%20POSTING-3.pdf) (PDF).
* **22 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)** will be structured in **5 groups**. Executive Summaries of the countries are available for viewing and preparing responses <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>. MGoS may request the floor to speak during the interactive **Q&As** that will follow the presentations ;
* Requesting the floor during interactive **Q&As** held during the **thematic round tables** and the country presentations;
* A number of MGoS have been invited as **lead discussants** in HLPF round tables;
* For the first time on 15 July, a dedicated three hours session has been designated for MGoS participation. The HLPF CM task force together with DSD is has been facilitating the finalisation of the draft programme and speakers;
* All documents are posted on the website under the **“documentation” t**ab;
* A Blog is published on the 2016 theme of ‘leaving no one is left behind’ and makes for interesting reading <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/blog>

(ii) TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[Opening of the HLPF SDGs Learning, Training and Practice - Getting ready to implement the 2030 Agenda: Developing a SDG Roadmap](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/SDGsLearning) will take place on 11 July between 3-6 pm at Conference room E - UN HQ. The SDGs Learning, Training and Practice sessions are open to all accredited HLPF participants. This is an excellent opportunity for knowledge and skills acquisition; networking; sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration; learning about practical actions and best practices; capacity building; and practical policy integration and coherence. Details are available on HLPF Apps and Sustainable Development website.

(iii) SIDE EVENTS

A total of **80 side events** are being organised by MGoS, UN entities and Member States collaboratively and separately. Attendance to all side events is free and the smaller venues get filled out quite quickly. Refreshments are provided at some events and needs to be confirmed with the organisers. Details are available on HLPF Apps and [Preliminary Programme of Side Events](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10602HLPF%202016%20Sides%20Program%20for%20Web%20Site.pdf) (PDF)

 (iv) EXHIBITIONS

Major Groups and other stakeholders will be putting together a diverse exhibition with material from partner organisations from across the globe. Details are available on Apps and the Sustainable Development website.

(v) OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

* The first 2016 [Partnership Exchange event](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange) on 18 July 2016 is open to all accredited HPF participants at Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters, New York. It is highly recommended for MGoS members to attend this event for identifying future opportunities within the UN system and member states for collaboration.
* [SDG Business Forum](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=20000&nr=390&menu=2993)  Co-hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UN entities and other stakeholders will report on significant achievements and activities undertaken by the private sector and explore their capacity to catalyze sustainable growth and development.

**Useful links and documents**

Download Apple App and Google App for real time information about meetings, venues and maps.



You can find information related to the following on the **Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform** <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs> :

[Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

[A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld)

[A/RES/67/290 - Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpf)

[A/70/684 - Report of the Secretary-General: Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/follow-up)

[22 National Voluntary Reviews](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs)

[Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf)

[Discussion papers on the theme of HLPF submitted by MGoS](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/2&Lang=E)

[Common Voluntary Guidelines for MGoS to report to the HLPF on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10434Proposal%20voluntary%20common%20guidelines%20MGoS.pdf)