**Inputs to the**

**Retreat on the preparation for the 2016 session of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**New York, 23-24 February 2016**

***Children and Youth, NGO and Women’s Major Groups***

**Background:** This document seeks to gather input and views from the representatives of the Children and Youth, NGO and Women’s Major Groups in order to represent these constituencies at the retreat to prepare for the 2016 HLPF Retreat on Tuesday 23 February 2016 in New York.

**Instructions to provide input:** Eight questions have been provided below based on the Draft Programme for the Retreat. Please provide short and concise inputs to any or all of the questions. In providing your inputs, please state your name, organization and Major Group affiliation at the beginning of the paragraph. If possible, please utilize different color fonts to identify different inputs. For example:

[Name, Organization, Major Group Affiliation] believes that the HLPF should be a forum for...

For those of you wishing to comment on inputs already made, please do not change these inputs but use the ‘Comments Box’ function or CTRL+ALT+M.

**Please provide all inputs by 1:00pm EST, Monday 22 February 2016.**

***Expectations for the 2016 HLPF reviews***

1. How can this year’s reviews help us to gauge our baseline, identify upcoming challenges andssess our early steps in implementation?

***Thematic reviews***

1. What does it mean to leave no one behind in the various country contexts?
2. How can the HLPF discussions on the theme and the SDGs be informed by reviews conducted in other intergovernmental bodies and what would be the most relevant inputs?
3. What will make the thematic review useful to countries and how can the HLPF recommendations be elaborated?

***Voluntary national reviews***

1. What would be standard features in preparing HLPF voluntary national reviews this year within the countries, what could ambitious approaches be and how can countries support each other in preparing these reviews at national level?
2. How can the HLPF examination of the reviews be best prepared, organized and followed-up so as to be most useful to all countries in the context of the principles established in the 2030 Agenda? How can national reviews lead to possible support and new partnerships to assist the reviewed countries?

***Global reviews***

1. How can the SDG Progress report and global sustainable development report be most useful to the HLPF in conducting its global and thematic reviews? Will other inputs be needed?
2. What would be useful political guidance from the HLPF and how could it be developed?

***Any other comments***

[Lanre Rotimi, International Society for Poverty Elimination / Economic Alliance Group, NGO MG] believes that the Retreat should be a forum to find correct answer to SG Follow Up and Review Report How questions. This is because this important SG Report set out to answer AAAA, SDG, COP21, Agenda 21 Aligned and Harmonized to National Development Plans, NDPs’ How questions but ended up answering What questions. Of the 8 questions in this consultation, 4 are What questions and 4 are How questions. Yet the How questions did not include the two most important questions the Retreat seek to answer 1. How can the voluntary national review at the HLPF be most useful and how can it be best prepared and organized? 2. How can national reviews lead to possible support and new partnerships to assist the reviewed countries?

What questions have been ove-ranswed. Answers to How questions have been avoided or evaded even in UN Events including UN Security Council Events specifically organized to help find correct answer to How questions. We believe the Retreat Participants should recognize that answer to What questions is about SAYING which is easy and answer to How questions is about DOING which is especially DIFFICULT because it DEMANDS KNOW HOW based on minimum certain levels of Competences: Hard Competences - Learning and Skills and Soft Competences - Character, Courage and Mindset.

Should above points be well received by Retreat Organizers and other Contributors to this Consultation, we are glad to make further contribution before the Monday Deadline Date.