NGO Major Group Minutes 2016

**MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism Meeting**

**HLPF Update by Lotta Tahtinen, DESA Stakeholder Engagement Programme Coordinator, Wednesday, 22 June 2016**

* The HLPF program and round table (RT) descriptions may be found [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10425HLPF%20Programme%202016.pdf) and [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10515SHORT%20CONCEPT%20NOTES%20-%20HLPF%202016%20%28website%2920June2016.pdf) on the UN DESA Knowledge Platform website, as well as other documentation including the MGoS thematic position papers.
* The ECOSOC President is now actively shaping the RTs from a pool of proposed speakers from Member States, UN agencies and MGoS. The program is still a work in progress, we do not have the names of speakers as yet.
* There will be ample opportunities for MGoS to intervene at the HLPF. For the first time there will be a dedicated 3-hour session with MGoS on Friday, 15 July. There is a small task team preparing a concept note that will showcase what MGoS are doing to begin implementing 2030 Agenda.
* The ECOSOC President will be inviting MGoS representatives to be lead discussants at each HLPF round table. The HLPF CM Steering Group provided a list of recommended names to the ECOSOC President. In each RT there will be interactive Q&As as well as Q&As at the National Volunteer Review (NVR) country presentations during the ministerial session where MGoS may make interventions.
* The 22 NVRs will be grouped into 5 groups for two-hour interactive sessions where presentations will be made at the ministerial level on 19 & 20 July. There will be 12 seats for MGoS (9 MGs + 3 other stakeholders). At this stage, neither UN agencies nor MGoS will be given dedicated speaking slots, but will rather be invited to make comments when the floor is open for Q&A.
* MGoS representatives will be invited to schedule and prepare interventions during RT & NVR Q&As as well as at the three-hour dedicated session on 10 July through google docs to be managed by the HLPF CM. At MGoS daily morning briefings NGOs will have the opportunity to organize their interventions for each day.
* DESA will share list of recommended speaker names prepared by HLPF CM Steering Group and list of 20 funded participants.
* A small task team will meet on Friday to develop a proposed program for the Pre-HLPF preparatory meeting taking place on Sunday, 10 July 9 am – 3 pm, at the Church Center, second floor conference room.
* Side event confirmations have been sent out. Organizers of side events will continue to be contacted throughout the week.

**NGO Major Group Webex Meeting**

**Wednesday, 15 June 2016**

**Notes by Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS**

* The update on the HLPF at the MGoS HLPF meeting on 8 June may be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14S5sttv8lwRrPZ9ccrZWhU-295SQZSIwkGR8CPmlTXY/edit).
* ​The HLPF programme may be found [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf) and [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10425HLPF%20Draft%20Programme%202016.pdf).
* Discussion papers on the theme of the HLPF submitted by MGoS, including the NGO MG, may be found [here](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/2&Lang=E).
* FUR final draft resolution may be found [here](http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-7-June-2016.pdf).
* Letter and elements paper from the Co-Facilitators of the informal consultations on the HLPF Ministerial Declaration for the 2016

**Updates on HLPF, Ministerial Declaration & FUR resolution by Isabela Cuhna, UN DESA**

* **HLPF program**: At the briefing last week by the President of ECOSOC, the HLPF program was released. It is expected that the ECOSOC President will release the names of the speakers of the HLPF sessions/roundtables next week.
* **HLPF side events**: DESA/DSD is now in the process of consolidating duplicative side event applications with the expectation that the full side event schedule will be released early next week.
* **HLPF RTs**: In response to a question about the submission of MGoS speakers for the HLPF roundtables, it was explained that the CM Steering Group was asked by DSD at the last minute to provide the names of suggested speaker representing the MGoS to the President of ECOSOC even though the HLPF program had not been released as yet. In the interest of transparency, it was requested that the CM Co-Chairs release the name of suggested MGoS speakers transmitted to the President of ECOSOC through DSD. We also discussed the idea of the HLPF CM Co-Chairs communicating our serious concern to President of ECOSOC asking why the HLPF program was released so late so as to prevent MGoS from having enough time to properly prepare for the HLPF RTs.
* The President of ECOSOC will convene a briefing to MS and MGoS on **Thursday 9 June, at 3 p.m. in CR 1** on the forum. UN DESA issued a call to the HLPF CM for MGoS volunteers to draft a recommended meeting agenda.
* **HLPF Ministerial Declaration**: PGA appointed Australia & Peru as co-facilitators of HLPF 2016 Ministerial Declaration. The co-facilitators will host the first consultation tomorrow afternoon (16 June), where MGoS have been invited to make statements after the Member States.
* **Follow up & review (FUR) resolution**: Last week, the resolution was circulated by the President of the General Assembly to Member States under “silence procedure” until Wednesday, 8 June. This meant that unless any Member State objected to the text during this timeframe, it would be adopted. We learned that the FUR silent procedure was broken by Syria over the absence of the issue of “foreign occupation” in the resolution. Mexico also voiced concern over the inclusion of the subset of goals to be reviewed on an annual basis. The Member States are at an impasse, so the resolution has not been adopted as of yet, and is still open. The next steps from here are still uncertain, and Member States are awaiting guidance from the PGA on this.

**NGO MG Discussion**

* Jeffery Huffines will circulate a survey to identify NGOs registered to attend the HLPF this year that will include a calendar of the HLPF program where NGOs will be able to indicate their interest in making an intervention at each session during the Q&A periods.
* Marianne Haslegrave (Common Medical Trust) advised that the Health in Post-2015 NGO Coalition is preparing a letter to the co-facilitators outlining recommendations for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration. The letter will urge Member States to include language on UN “specialized agencies” in addition to mention of the ECOSOC functional commissions, as was done for the FUR resolution. There is a specific reference to thematic review, but we don’t know what the follow up process is going to look like at this time. For example, the WHA has adopted a very strong resolution on FUR, which will be reviewing the health goal and related targets & indicators at least every 2 years. In addition to the WHO, other specialized agencies will also be engaging in an ongoing review process in partnership with NGOs and the private sector.
* Bonian Golmohammadi advised that WFUNA will be recommending that the HLPF Ministerial Declaration open up opportunities for the review process to take place throughout the UN calendar rather than being confined to just the 8 days of the HLPF.
* Jeffery Huffines agreed to make a statement on behalf of NGO MG at the first informal consultation on the elements paper for the draft ministerial declaration taking place on 16 June.
* Susan O’Malley of the NGO CSW NY advised that the Committee will be organizing a Learning Session on Wed 13 July 3-6 pm, Learning Session. They have also booked a room in the Church Center, Friday, 15 July 1-3 pm. They are open to suggestions on the agenda for this time slot.

**NGO Thematic Clusters**

* David Kirshbaum of Nonviolence International has offered to help establish or identify focal points for NGO MG thematic clusters.
* Thematic clusters are an opportunity to offer space for groups who have not found a seat at the table, like faith-based organizations and peace & security NGOs.
* Richard Jordan of RASIT explained that the thematic clusters are rooted in the history of of CSD/NGO Steering Committee during the CSD. At CSD 5 (sometimes referred to in the past as Rio + 5), the CSD/NGO Steering Committee asked Richard, along with the late Dr. Pauulu Kamarakafego to poll NGOs on the following question: If Agenda 21 could be reopened so that new major groups could be added to the 9 existing major groups, what would they be? The results were interesting, in that rural women, faith groups, tourism, peace and security, and sports were the “communities of practice” that were identified. Because Agenda 21, as consensus language, could not be opened unless the whole document were to be opened, these sectors were identified “communities of practice”.
* Marianne Haslegrave explained that the health coalition did not we want to go it alone but wanted to be a part of the NGO MG as a thematic cluster. Now that the sustainable development agenda is much broader, it is important to bring in other key actors through the thematic clusters. The processes come from SD process, but now it is much broader. The agenda has now changed, so need to recognize and bring others in. Inclusivity is very important.

**Update on NGO MG Nomination Committee**

* On 9 June a call for nominations for the election of up to 3 global organizing partners and up to 9 regional organizations partners was shared with a deadline of 20 June. With only 4 applications received so far, the Nomination Committee will meet on Friday (17 June) to discuss the extension of the deadline to ensure the participation of qualified candidates.

**Update on proposed NGO MG web site**

* At the NGO MG meeting on 8 June, Matthew Reading-Smith, senior communication officer for CIVICUS, explained that he would be available to help design a web site for the NGO MG with its own domain name using the Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) web site ([www.action4sd.org](http://www.action4sd.org)) as the host server.
* We agreed to crowdsource ideas and identiy NGO volunteers to help design and develop text for the web site.

**NGO Major Group Webex Meeting**

**Wednesday, 13 April 2016**

**Notes by Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS**

**Update on Agenda 2030 developments by Lotta Tahtinen, DESA/DSD**

HLPF 2016 Preparations

* 22 Member States have volunteered to be reviewed that now includes Colombia. The preparation of national reports are now in full swing. Volunteer countries have held two meetings in Dubai and New York. There have been regional meetings of volunteering countries in Asia-Pacific in Bangkok last week as well as in ECE & ECA. There will be a global gathering in NY on 26-27 April for 22 volunteering countries only.
* The HLPF will include 5 days of an expert meeting and a 3 day ministerial meeting,11-20 July. The HLPF program has yet to be released. The President of ECOSOC is still trying to distinguish between the two different segments and how to reflect national presentations in both or in just one segment of the HLPF. He will initiate some consultations on a proposal towards the end of April or early May. Once it is DESA/DSD will post information on the DESA web site.
* The deadline for the submission of position papers for the HLPF by MGoS is 25 April. Please remain within word count of 2200 words.
* UN DESA/DSD has circulated a call for side events that is open for Member States, UN System, MGoS, that is available on the website [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf). The deadline is 1 June 2016.
* The MGoS will be convening an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) next Tuesday, 19 April, to discuss two key issues: how to shape voluntary reports by MGoS, and seeking views on recommending innovative ways for MGoS participation in HLPF building on extensive provisions of GA res 67/290. There will be 30 funded participants coming from around the world.

Negotiations on follow up and review

* The GA co-facilitators Denmark & Belize have held meetings on 31 March & 1 April and informal consultations with civil society and private sector on 6 April. Based on the feedback received, the co-facilitators will issue an ‘elements paper’ shortly that will outline elements for a draft resolution to be negotiated in May.
* The views of Member States are quite divided. Many have reiterated that the 2030 Agenda already provides detailed guidance on follow up & review at national, regional and global levels, so there is no appetite to re-legislate on these matters. The SG report on global review, to which Member States, UN System and MGoS also contributed, is seen to be a good basis for discussions. Any resolution that they will negotiate will focus on issues to be decided now, and just reaffirm principles of Agenda 2030 follow up.
* One question is should there be a decision on the programme of work for HLPF themes for a 4 year cycle. Another discussion is how to make sure that functional commissions of ECOOS will feed their outputs into the HLPF. Also, what is the linkage of the HLPF between the GA and HLPF.
* On voluntary national reviews and guidelines, countries don’t want to be overburdened by reporting requirements. The proposed common voluntary guidelines by SG are useful, but should not cap any possible ambition or innovation in country reports.

Regional Forums on Sustainable Development

* About the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, 67/290 mandated Regional Commissions to have Regional Forums. ESCAP hosted the Asia-Pacific Forum on 3-5 April in Bangkok that was preceded by a 3 day preparatory meeting cosponsored by ESCAP, DSD, UNEP with 135 CSOs participating. It served as a forum for member states from that region to outline what they are doing at the national level, very heartening to see steps taken. For example, Pakistan just passed legislation which will incorporate the 2030 agenda & SDGs in their national development plans. Institutional structures that are being put into place, like National Sustainable Development Councils, were outlined. For example, Philippines is reinvigorating its NSDC.
* Four countries in region will be participating in the HLPF’s national voluntary reviews, including China, Korea, Philippines and Samoa. They explained where they stand on their preparations. Perhaps the most advanced country is Samoa which described very robust engagement of local stakeholders as a consequence of the recent SIDS conference.
* For more information on regional forums, check the UN DESA/DSD website on “Regional Preparatory Meetings” [here](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf). ESCAP is the only region where a full fledged regional forum has taken place, others are doing more truncated forums, reflecting the fact that ongoing global negotiations on follow up and review are ongoing. There will be regional gatherings in ECE ECA and ESCWA. The only region that has not made a decision is ECLAC, which will be taking a decision at its next meeting in May in Mexico.
* This year DESA/DSD is facilitating the participation of NGOs in Regional Forums but hope to do so next year.

**​Update on Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs (​30 March -1 April) by John Romano, TAP Network**

The third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs met on 31 March - April in Mexico City. The real work of IEAG now begins on collecting the metadata & data collection processes for the SDGs over the 15 years. The IAEG has identified 3 tiers of indicators:

* Tier I: an established methodology exists and data are already widely available
* Tier II: a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available
* Tier III: an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed.

The status of Tier 3 indicators and the sorting of indicators by tiers were discussed. With over 200 indicators, this amounted to a huge prioritization exercise. It will take several months to sort Tier 3 indicators and several more years to develop methodologies, meta data and data collection on those indicators. The indicators are on two tracks.

* Teir 1 and 2 indicators are ready for global monitoring, so NSOs and governments can start collecting data on these indicators at global level.
* The other track is to establish a process to revise and/or add new indicators to the current indicator set. This process is now being built into the IAEG working methods.

Many NSOs had not realized that only those indicators that were explicitly referenced at the Stats Commission in March would be discussed at this meeting, so the reaction to this lack of transparency was fairly contentious. Because a lot of stakeholders had reservations on the indicators, the IAEG agreed to open up the process to revise or add additional indicators now and in the long-term. The IAEG will launch a process to revise certain indicators after September starting at its next meeting in October. Three opportunities to review and revise the global indicators over the next 15 years were identified: around 2018, in 2020 and 2025.

In terms of work going forward, the IAEG meets only twice a year with the next meeting taking place in October 2016. The IAEG has established subgroups on data disaggregation (for IAEG members only), on statistical data and metadata exchange, on geospatial info, and on interlinkages. The interlinkages subgroup will look at how certain indicators are related to others, with some targets using the same indicators for measurement. The last three groups will be open to other NSOs, UN agencies and stakeholders. TORs will have to be established for each.

For most NSOs, engagement with NGOs at the IAEG is uncharted territory. NSOs have not had to work with NGOs too much, so there is little capacity to do so. This is foundational work we are undertaking. The meeting in Mexico City made some strides in terms of civil society engagement. For example, CSOs had only 3-4 speaking slots In Bangkok while in Mexico city CSOs had 12-13 speaking slots. CSO participation at this meeting was very good with many Mexican NGOs participating.

Regarding CSO engagement going forward, it is an open question. How do we engage the IAEG in between meetings? With only two meetings per year, a lot of decisions are taken in between meetings. Yet the IEAG platform is closed so it will be an uphill climb to engage the process. At the IAEG meeting, indicator tiers were discussed in various chunks. The NGOs provided statements for these clusters as well as on overarching issues including on dissagregation, methodologies, data and monitoring which will be placed on the IAEG web site.

There is work to be done around the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG), that will focus on data collection, partnerships, and capacity building, as well as on interlinkages and the integrated nature of everything. The HLG hasn’t been as active or open as IAEG, so it might be very important for colleagues to engage it going forward. HLG agenda items include how NSOs can engage NGOs, World Data Forum, and other relevant points in the years ahead.

Regarding support for the collection of data by CSOs, on the front end everyone agrees that we need as many actors on board to help with data collection, however when discussing this with NSOs and governments, the question is how they can bring this data into their own work? Our argument is that if CSO data is methodologically sound, reliable, comparable, and the metadata is sufficient then the data should be used by governments and the UN.

John Romano will share his briefing notes as well as the TAP positions on key asks made at the IAEG around indicators, data collection, and a wider range of data sources including from civil society.

**Campaign for Inclusion of SDGs Monitoring​**

In response to the SG Report on follow up & review, Lichia Yiu & Raymond Saner of Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND, Geneva) gave a brief presentation about a campaign that they have launched asking the HLPF to strengthen the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. The word “monitoring” appeared only once in the text of the SG report while the word “review” was mentioned over 20 times. Monitoring is a necessity, it is a part of due diligence by the people for the people. They are disappointed to see that the proposed review of the institutional related targets in Goal 16 will not take place until 2019.

* ​An Open Letter addressing the stakeholders of the international community to endorse their campaign may be found [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bHOwxJyE1NL3AshPpjQLva7VWEm2GJfIPLwG98P2qZM/viewform?c=0&w=1).
* ​A discussion paper detailing their concerns may be found [here](http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/Discussion_Paper_RS_LY3.pdf).​
* A power point will be shared separately.

**NGO Major Group position paper for HLPF 2016**

UN DESA/DSD has invited the nine major groups and other relevant stakeholders to submit one paper per sector/group of no more than 2,800 words to DSD by Monday, 25 April 2016. Each submission will be accompanied by a list of the organizations that have contributed to its preparation. The NGO MG OPs have disseminated a draft position paper for a first round of comments/edits by Friday, 15 April, followed by a final round of endorsements by Friday, 22 April.

* The NGO MG position paper may be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T_hhJI_ULOAXBuuarh9Uj-Sk8fDsCiypgP6eISmV5Ew/edit).

**NGO Major Group appointment of HLPF Task Force & Nomination Committee**

* We agreed to solicit volunteers to serve on an HLPF Task Force to help prepare the NGO MG for the 2016 HLPF & NGO MG Annual Meeting.
* The NGO OPs will appointment a NGO MG Nomination Committee. ​

Par 31 of NGO MG TOR states: *The Facilitation Committee shall: Approve 1 global OP, 2 regional OPs and up to 4 other members of the NGO Major Group to be on the Nomination Committee, including its chair. (see TOR* [*here*](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/ngos)*)*

In place of the Facilitation Committee (since there isn't one yet), the current OPs will reach out to appoint the Nomination Committee as follows:

1. Global OP & Chair: Philipp Schonrock, CEPEI
2. Regional Group: Invite RCEM to designate representative
3. Regional Group: ​Invite Africa Civil Society Platform to designate representative
4. Other member: NGO representative based in NYC who served on TOR working group
5. Other member: NGO representative based in NYC who served on TOR working group
6. Other member: someone from Caribbean region
7. Other member: someone from Europe

Proposed timeline​ (see par 35):

* 6 - 23 May: Circulate, solicit and receive nomination forms.
* 23 May - 3 June: Conduct interviews, choose candidates and prepare ballot for review by NGO OPs.
* 13 June: send by email, " the ballot with information on election procedures including names of candidates and their resumes and deadline date of the Annual Meeting to all members of the NGO Major Group."
* Announce results of election at Annual Meeting on 9 or 10 July (Sat or Sun)