

# THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

## UNDERSTAND HLPF

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The annual forum provides political leadership guidance, and recommendations on the agenda's implementation and follow-up, keeps track of progress, and spurs coherent policies.

United Nations member states, UN specialized agencies, and other actors (like civil society representatives) participate in the forum each July. Governments report on their progress on specific SDGs (determined by UN DESA) through Ministerial Declarations and one 20-minute presentation. Civil society are welcome to sit in on the presentations and ask questions through the UN Major Group structure.

## REPORTING

All countries are encouraged to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". Governments can voluntarily report to the HLPF on their progress, but it is not an accountability mechanism, yet countries are expected to do so twice within the 15 year implementation period.

In 2017, 44 countries will present their 'Voluntary National Reports' (VNRs).

The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## HLPF 2017

The Forum's 2017 theme is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of goals to be reviewed in depth (along with Goal 17 on partnerships) are:

- **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

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Opportunities for civil society to participate during the HLPF are still, unfortunately, limited though UN DESA, is working on strengthening CSO participation and involvement in the process.

CSOs that are ECOSOC accredited are able to propose official side-events related to the theme of the HLPF. Each year 80 events are selected.

Other ways to participate:

- Collaborate with other CSOs in your country to write a shadow or "spotlight" report which highlights progress (or the lack thereof) on the SDGs from your perspective.
- Meet with your country's Ambassador to the U.N. to present your work and perspective on SDG implementation.
- Target advocacy activities to your government in country on reporting honestly and openly about SDG implementation.