



## Overview of the mandate for MGoS participation

### Agenda 21

Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, 1992, it was recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Agenda 21 drew upon this sentiment and formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit.

The nine channels of society were officially called "Major Groups" and included the following sectors: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Farmers. To implement this structure, the Major Groups Programme was set up within the Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA, with the objective of incorporating the views of these sectors of society into intergovernmental processes.

### UNGA Resolution 66/288

Two decades after the Earth Summit in 2012, the importance of effectively engaging these nine sectors of society was reaffirmed by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20. In addition, governments invited other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, were invited to participate in UN processes related to sustainable development.

The outcome document 'The future we want' was endorsed by and annexed in UNGA Resolution 66/288. In it, the UN General Assembly dedicated a section to *Engaging major groups and other stakeholders*. It underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential to the promotion of sustainable development. It stated that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups.

Governments agreed to work more closely with the major groups and other stakeholders and encouraged their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.

### UNGA Resolution 67/290

The Rio+20 Conference in 2012 decided to conclude the Commission for Sustainable Development after its twentieth session and subsequently inaugurate the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) that would build on the practices of the CSD to enhance the engagement of Major Groups and other stakeholders in the follow-up and review of sustainable development commitments. In 2013, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 67/290 outlining the *'Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development'*. It stressed the need for the HLPF to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and

other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions. Paragraph 15 of the same Resolution further states that representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall 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 & the Secretariat.

The Resolution encourages major groups and other stakeholders *'to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms'* for participation in the HLPF.

### **UNGA Resolution 70/1**

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the outcome document titled 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' following the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome document states that reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will include developed and developing countries, UN entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. The reviews will also provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Agenda 2030 reiterates that the HLPF will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290 and calls upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.

### **UNGA Resolution 70/299**

Resolution 70/299, 'Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level' was adopted in 2016. The resolution encourages Member States to involve stakeholders in the national voluntary reviews and reiterates the call to major groups and stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **UNGA Resolution 72/305**

Resolution 72/305 adopted the annexed text concerning the 'Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council'. The text stated that the Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the active participation of major groups, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, youth and other relevant stakeholders and regional organizations in the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions, in accordance with UNGA Resolution 67/290. In addition, the Economic and Social Council should consider possible ways of applying to other meetings and segments certain aspects of the modalities of engagement of major groups and other stakeholders in the HLPF, while retaining its intergovernmental nature and allowing sufficient time to Member States.

## Overview of the MGoS structures for the participation at the HLPF

Since its adoption, MGoS have been actively working towards its implementation, through projects, initiatives, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. MGoS often work in partnership with other sectors, including governments. At the time of writing in October 2019, there are 9 Major Group and 9 Stakeholder Groups:

### Major Groups

- Business & Industry
- Children & Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples
- Local Authorities
- NGOs
- Scientific & Technological Community
- Women
- Workers & Trade Unions

### Stakeholder Groups

- Ageing
- Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
- Civil Society Financing for Development Group
- Education & Academia
- LGBTI
- Persons with Disabilities
- Sendai Stakeholder Mechanism
- Together 2030
- Volunteers & Foundations

## MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism

The purpose and the structures of the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism are defined in its Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR outlines the membership, objectives and methods of work MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism.

### Membership

Membership is open to all representatives of the Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders active in sustainable development. Parties that are interested in engaging in the HLPF can register to join the self-organized MGoS HLPF CM mailing list by completing the registration form found on the 'Stakeholders' page of the HLPF website. HLPF participants are encouraged to reach out to the Organizing Partners of their relevant MGoS constituency to find out more about opportunities for engagement.

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### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Business and Industry  
Children and Youth  
Farmers  
Indigenous Peoples  
Local Authorities  
NGOs  
Scientific & Technological Community  
Women  
Workers and Trade Unions  
Persons with Disabilities  
Volunteers  
Ageing  
Education and Academia

### High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

National Capacity Building  
Post 2015 process  
Statements  
Documents

### Stakeholders

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) were integral to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since its adoption, MGoS have been actively working towards its implementation, through projects, initiatives, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. MGoS often work in partnership with other sectors, including governments.

Major Groups and other Stakeholders are also active in the annual follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda, which culminates in the annual High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. MGoS interested in engaging in the High-Level Political Forum can register to join the self-organized Major Groups and other Stakeholders High-Level Political Forum Coordination Mechanism (MGoS HLPF CM) and mailing list by completing this registration form. We also encourage MGoS to reach out to the Organizing Partners of their relevant constituency listed below to find out more about opportunities for engagement.

For more information on the 2019 HLPF, please [click here](#). For more information on how MGoS can engage in the HLPF and its preparations, please see "HLPF Preparatory Webinars for Major Groups and other Stakeholders" under the "preparation" tab on the [2019 HLPF website](#).

If you are a representative of a Major Group and other Stakeholder who would like to find out more about engaging in the VNR sessions during the HLPF, please [click here](#).

Please join the HLPF MGoS Coordination Mechanism mailing list by completing [this registration form](#).

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHILDREN & YOUTH FARMERS

### Objectives

The MGOS group has 4 main objectives:

1. Ensure broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF;
2. Ensure that the rights of access and inclusive participation of MGoS in the HLPF are protected and upheld as mandated by Resolution 67/2901 and potentially expanded;
3. Facilitate the coordination among, and promote the participation of, all stakeholders that are involved in the HLPF process and want to contribute to it, including organizations and groups that are not part of the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism, to ensure the broadest participation possible.
4. Convene an annual forum for MGoS at which an annual review of engagement activities is presented, including recommendations for future action.

The MGOS consists of 10 Task Groups focused on Coordination; Advocacy; VNR Engagement; MGoS Collective Events & Side Events; Expert Group Meetings & Selection Processes; Webinars; HLPF Planning; HLPF Reform; Terms of Reference. Each task group consists of experienced MGoS representatives who are familiar with the HLPF. Each Task Group is charged with the responsibility of outlining and executing processes which ensure the broad participation of MGoS participants at the HLPF.

### MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism

The MGoS ToR also outlines the composition and responsibilities of its Coordination Mechanism.

#### Composition

The Coordination Mechanism is comprised of one principal and one alternate representative of each of the 18 MGOS constituencies. Typically, these representatives are Organising Partners of the MGOS constituencies. The Coordination Mechanism is responsible for facilitating the participation of the MGOS in HLPF related activities. All members of the Coordination Mechanism must have clear governance structures, consultative processes, and meaningful accountability mechanisms towards their membership as per DESA and additional jointly agreed requirements, including how these Organising Partners and/or focal points are elected, selected, or appointed, as well as provide some type of governance reporting

#### Objectives

The objectives of the Coordination Mechanism include:

- Facilitating multi-stakeholder inputs into the HLPF programme through DESA/DSD and at meetings with the President of ECOSOC.
- Proposing draft programmes for Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) and other related events that address themes relevant to MGoS and their work in the context of sustainable development.

- Proposing draft guidelines and templates for stakeholder role in national and regional reviews of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Identifying key representatives to be funded and/or non-funded speakers, panelists, and moderators at all stakeholder engagement opportunities in the context of the HLPF.
- Facilitating the integration of broad and diverse perspectives at the HLPF, setting clear, transparent, and inclusive criteria for engagement.
- Facilitating dialogue and, whenever possible, identifying consensus on core issues regarding the participation of MGOS in the HLPF.
- Mobilizing actions and concrete outputs that will strengthen the overall credibility, visibility, and influence of MGOS in the HLPF.
- Facilitating the production of position papers on the theme of HLPF meetings as needed.
- Developing and promoting communication and outreach strategies that supports public awareness and increased understanding of the HLPF.
- Organizing meetings of the MGOS HLPF Coordination Mechanism and propose the agenda.
- Maintaining the mailing list of the MGOS HLPF Coordination Mechanism.
- Considering issues related to fundraising, including administration of a trust fund that may be established.

Although the members of the Coordination Mechanism are located all over the world, they hold regular meetings via online conference platforms to collectively decide the issues at hand.

### **Sectoral Position Papers**

In accordance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/290, which outlines the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF, ‘major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be allowed to submit documents and present written and oral contribution’. Every year, each of the major groups and other stakeholders are invited to submit their coordinated sectoral position papers related to the theme of the High-Level Political Forum. These sectoral papers outline key messages, challenges, opportunities, good practices and policy recommendations for implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as other sustainable development frameworks. The deadline for these reports concludes shortly before the HLPF each year. The reports are then placed on the ‘Inputs to the HLPF’ online review platform.

### **Paragraph 89 Reports**

In addition to the sectoral position papers, paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda states that the HLPF ‘will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.’ This provides an opportunity for individual organizations or organizations in partnership to submit reports on specific themes relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The deadline for these reports concludes shortly before the HLPF each year. The reports are then placed on the ‘Inputs to the HLPF’ online review platform.