

CIVIL SOCIETY SDG FORUM 2019

Systemic Analysis, Proposed Pathways and Institutional Reforms to Advance the 2030 Agenda

Tuesday, September 24, 17:00-20:00, UN Headquarters Conference Room 4

Concept

The Civil Society SDG Forum aims to create a space for constructive and propositional dialogue between civil society and UN Member States, international and regional organizations and other related constituencies on the possible responses to the challenges encountered during the first four years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the dialogue will be based on civil society's systemic analysis and proposed pathways to tackle multidimensional inequalities and resolve the intertwined environmental/climate, social, economic and political challenges, it is expected to promote honest dialogue with key representatives of Member States and other institutions on key strategies to move the agenda forward. The event will feature a dynamic and open format that would allow opportunities for frank exchange among those present. The Forum will be facilitated by the civil society constituencies of the HLPF Major Group and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS), under the overall coordination of the HLPF MGoS Steering Group (SG) and will explore possible elements of dialogue with the two other Fora taking place in the context of the SDG Summit. A dedicated registration has been established to allow all interested participants, both from civil society and from other constituencies, to participate in the Forum. While the current arrangements only provide for the Forum to happen in English, the SG is currently exploring possible arrangements to facilitate simultaneous translation in Spanish and French.

Preliminary Agenda

The Forum will address the following three clusters of issues:

1. Systemic analysis for the current state of implementation:

- Systemic obstacles to progress that require attention by the international community
- Policy nexuses that help reframing the nature and interconnection of development challenges

2. Key proposals to unlock progress:

- Key policy proposals and pathways that require international cooperation
- Key programmes and actions that can help moving the agenda forward

3. Institutional arrangements that can facilitate implementation:

- Rethinking institutional arrangements at multiple levels
- Re-imagining the Follow-up & Review process of the 2030 Agenda, including the HLPF

Format and speakers

The Forum will be facilitated by two civil society co-moderators, supported by three rapporteurs. After a brief opening segment, the 3-hour programme will be structured in three 50-minute segments to reflect the above-proposed three clusters of issues. Each segment will feature a maximum of four panellists, possibly two from civil society and two/three from Member States. Each segment will leave ample space for comments from and dialogue with the audience.

The Opening and Closing Segments would welcome high-level representation by the United Nations Secretariat as well as the Presidencies of the General Assembly and ECOSOC. A short closing session will also outline the next steps with respect to civil society preparations for the HLPF reform, the 2020 HLPF and the UN@75. The SG is currently finalized the choice of speakers, moderators and rapporteurs as well as establishing a vibrant preparatory process to ensure adequate convergence is built among civil society constituencies on the key elements to be proposed at the Forum.