



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

## Session 17: Our HLPF in the next 15 years 7 July 2015 – 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm

The High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) created at the 2012 Rio+20 conference has a range of mandates. It is convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (quadrennially) and of the Economic and Social Council (annually). It is to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development and follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments and their means of implementation, including the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields as well as the Sustainable Development Goals once adopted in September.<sup>1</sup> The HLPF is also to respond to new and emerging challenges, promote the science-policy interface, and address sustainable consumption and production. It dedicates adequate time on issues related to countries in special situations, including SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs and Africa and the special challenges of the Middle Income Countries. Overall, it aims to enhance the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The HLPF work will gain real momentum and reach its mandated breadth after the post-2015 development agenda is adopted. This year's session will reflect on how the forum can organize and structure its work in order to deliver on all its functions. The September 2015 summit may deliver broad guidance in this regard but there may be a need for elaborating further specific arrangements.

The HLPF is expected to conduct reviews through:

- (i) Regular State-led, voluntary reviews on the follow-up and implementation of SDGs, which will include developed and developing countries. There is need to reflect on these reviews' format, preparations, and outcome and whether all countries will be expected to voluntarily undertake such reviews over a four year period.
- (ii) Thematic reviews of progress in specific areas of the post-2015 development agenda. Those will build on the work of the UN system and other platforms reviewing specific goals and targets. There is need to discuss whether the HLPF should focus every year on a small group or cluster of SDGs or on cross cutting themes, and how to ensure that the HLPF adds value to the work of other platforms.

Another related issue is how the Forum can truly support national efforts to accelerate the implementation of the agenda. Other aspects to be discussed include how to balance predictability and flexibility in the work of the HLPF – for example, should it have a programme of work for the four years between two summit-level HLPF meetings convened under the General Assembly? How to complement and coordinate the reviews of the HLPF with the work of the ECOSOC system? Should there be a specific mechanism with scientists to help the HLPF identify and address new issues? What should the HLPF agenda look like so that it can discharge its various functions and allow an exchange of experiences? Is there need for an informal preparatory process? How can the HLPF better engage a wide range of sustainable development actors, including major groups and other stakeholders, and actors from the economic, social and environmental area?

### Possible questions for discussion:

1. How can the HLPF best deliver on its functions of follow-up and review of implementation of the SDGs (focus, agenda, programme of work, preparations, outcomes)?
2. How can the HLPF sessions and outcomes be most useful to boost implementation by developed and developing countries?
3. How can the HLPF build on the lessons learned and best practices from other institutions and platforms?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7261Post-2015%20Summit%20-%202015.pdf>