



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 8: Regional support to national action

30 June 2015 - 3.00 to 6.00 pm

In the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda being conducted at the United Nations, there is a broad agreement an effective and transparent follow-up and review framework will be critical for ensuring implementation of the agenda. Such a framework could “help track progress and identify achievements, challenges and critical factors in implementing the new agenda. It could support decision makers in making policy choices and help them to prioritise actions and investments. It could also assist with identifying needs, helping to mobilise means of implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships”.

The negotiations on the agenda to date have shown that there is a broad agreement on the principles that should underpin such a follow-up and review framework: It should be universal, voluntary, State-led and inclusive. It should be robust but be of a problem solving nature rather than a finger pointing exercise. It should support an exchange of experiences. It should not overburden countries.

A broad sense of architecture has also emerged from the discussions. The national level is seen as the lynchpin of the framework to review the post-2015 development agenda – it is where Governments would lead inclusive reviews of implementation and progress. The regional level may serve as a platform for peer review and exchange of lessons learned based on the national reviews. It can also discuss regional trends, cross border regional issues and policy coherence – and build on lessons from regional preparations for the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review. Many see the UN regional commissions, and the regional forums on sustainable development they have established, as platforms for such regional reviews. Other regional platforms exist in the various regions, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, providing opportunities for substantive input, collaboration and complementarity.

At international level, HLPF is mandated by A/67/290 to conduct reviews on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. This includes both (i) national reviews of implementation in developed and developing countries and (ii) thematic reviews. The HLPF national reviews of implementation will start in 2016, after the agenda is adopted. They will replace the National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Reviews, building upon lessons learned from those NVPs and other existing mechanisms.

This session will discuss how regional platforms can best support national implementation and national reviews, as well as contribute to the leadership and review role of the HLPF.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What lessons have been learned from existing review mechanisms, such as ECOSOC National Voluntary Presentations, and how can they enhance the work of the HLPF? How can HLPF national implementation reviews help mobilize means of implementation and partnerships?
2. What kind of review activity should take place at regional level? What are the most appropriate platforms to review progress towards the SDGs in the respective regions? Would it be acceptable to conduct peer reviews?
3. What steps should regional mechanisms take to bolster national implementation of the SDGs, promote and build on national reviews and keep track of regional trends and experiences?
4. What would be the role of civil society, including business and academia, in the process?
5. How should the outcome of national and regional reviews be fed into the HLPF?

¹ Co-Facilitators' background paper for the session on follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda