



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Tuesday, 9 July – Thursday, 18 July 2019

HLPF 2019: The Power of Partnership – “Unlocking the Promise of Goal 17 to increase the effectiveness of civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda / SDGs”

Forus and other sustainable development actors join forces to call for more effective implementation of Agenda 2030



The side event **“Unlocking the Promise of Goal 17 to increase the effectiveness of civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda”** will take place on July 15th to explore the potential of Goal 17 of the agenda to create a “whole-of-society” approach to implementation. It will examine how governments and donors can support diverse stakeholders, and civil society in particular, to

become more effective participants in 2030 Agenda implementation, including in its follow-up and review processes.

New-York – July 15th, 2019 – This significant side event will take place on the sidelines of the UN HLPF in the headquarters of the Ford Foundation and will be jointly hosted by [Forus](#), and other civil society partners. Speakers will include the European Commission and the governments of Canada, Switzerland, South Korea and Ghana, and a representative of the Ford Foundation. The purpose of the event is to bring government representatives, civil

society and international donors together to discuss how the promise of Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs can be unlocked to allow its commitments to financing for development (FfD) and to the capacity development of multiple stakeholders to be realized. This will contribute to increasing the effectiveness of civil society to monitor and implement the SDGs at national, regional and international levels.

Goal 17: a multi-stakeholder approach to sustainable development

A transformative element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is its focus on an inclusive “whole-of-society” approach to its implementation. Goal 17 of the agenda recognizes the key role that multistakeholder partnerships involving governments, the private sector and civil society can play in the achievement of sustainable development.

Goal 8 of the previous Millennium Development Goal (MDG) framework also aimed to develop a “global partnership for development.” Civil society actors have criticised the failure of the international community to deliver on this MDG commitment to partnership in the past. They are therefore calling for immediate action by UN Member States to “operationalise” the 2030 Agenda’s Goal 17, and in particular its specific commitments on financing for development and the capacity development of multiple stakeholders. Civil society organisations claim that Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda / the SDGs has not been the subject of sufficient political discussion or strategic decision-making by the international community since the adoption of the agenda.

This side event aims to ensure more effective and greater participation of sustainable development actors, including civil society organisations (CSOs) in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda’s goals.

Panel discussion

The panel discussion will feature several organisations with a specific interest in the implementation of SDG 17. Speakers will share their diverse perspectives on how the international community can best release the promise of SDG 17 and its commitments to partnership, capacity development and finance for development.

- **Forus**, a global civil society network, has published two studies on financing for civil society organizations and capacity development for 2030 Agenda implementation that will be presented during the side event.
- **Action for Sustainable Development**, another global CSO network, will present a recently published survey on civil society engagement in the 2030 Agenda follow up and review mechanisms at national, regional and global levels.
- **The government of Canada** will share its commitment to supporting an enabling environment for civil society in Canada and globally as part of contributing to the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

- **The Government of Ghana** will provide a useful example of partnership between civil society and government in mobilising new resources and ensuring effective support to community organisations.
- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of the Republic of Korea** will explain its commitment to strengthening partnership with civil society and will provide an example of how it adopted a Policy Framework for Government and Civil Society Partnership in International Development Cooperation early this year.
- **The European Commission** will explain how it was an active contributor to the negotiation of the Agenda 2030 and how it can play an important role in promoting the operationalization of SDG 17.
- **Claudio Fernandes, 2030 Working Group, Brazil** will explain the current challenges faced by CSOs in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels.

Expected outcomes of the side event

The side event *“Unlocking the Promise of Goal 17 to increase the effectiveness of civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda”* will:

- **identify key strategies to operationalise SDG 17 and enable the effective participation of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**
- **contribute to identifying the key capacity development requirements of civil society and other stakeholders in different parts of the world linked to the implementation of Agenda 2030.**
- **provide an opportunity to develop innovative approaches to financing the commitments under SDG 17 in support of multi-stakeholder partnerships.**

The recommendations arising from this session will feed into civil society advocacy efforts and ongoing policy dialogue with governments and development partners.

[“The Power of Partnership - Unlocking the promise of partnership to increase the strength of civil society in advancing the 2030 Agenda”](#)

Monday July 15, 2019, 8:30-10:30 am, Berta Caceres Room, Ford Foundation, New York

**This side event will also involve the launch of three new studies commissioned by civil society – [“Promising Approaches to CSO Funding”](#) and [“Analysing the Capacity Development content of the 2017 & 2018 VNRs”](#) (Forus) and *Towards a more Open and Inclusive Approach to 2030 Agenda Monitoring (A4SD)*. It will also draw on key insights from the 3rd Edition of *“Progressing National SDGs Implementation”* and a series of good practice policy briefs in 2030 Agenda implementation prepared by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation in partnership with the British Columbia Council for*

International Co-operation, funded in part by the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals Program.

About Forus

Forus, previously known as the International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP/FIP), is a member-led network of 69 National NGO Platforms and 7 Regional Coalitions from all continents representing over 22,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues. <http://forus-international.org>

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About the HLPF & the 2030 Agenda

*The 2019 **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** will be taking place on 9 – 18 July. This year, SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 are under review; and 47 countries will submit their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We are now four years into the 2030 Agenda but we know that governments reporting at the VNRs have provided very mixed pictures of progress. We are also aware that civil society involvement has also been patchy so far, despite an official commitment to engaging them fully in the review of progress. Forus will be organizing several events to strengthen these areas well as promoting [a review of HLPF and its engagement mechanisms](#).*

** **2030 Agenda** - This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets of this new universal Agenda seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>*

*** **SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals** - The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>*

*****VNRs, Voluntary National Reviews** - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". The voluntary national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. The national reviews 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. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>*