

Concept Note
NGO Major Group Side Event at the HLPF 2018
(Scroll down for list of co-sponsor organizations)

An NGO Toolbox to Enhance Implementation of the 2030 Agenda
Towards Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objective

Over 141 NGOs covering a diverse range of geographical and thematic expertise and experience contributed to the NGO Major Group's official position paper for 2018, highlighting the importance of addressing interlinkages to facilitate SDG implementation. This side event aims to provide analytical, social and political frameworks from a civil society perspective to enhance transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies at the national and subnational levels. Three key tools will be highlighted: 1) new regional and global political agreements which aid in SDG implementation; 2) application of the interlinkages principle; and 3) influencing cross-cutting issues. To promote a dynamic, interactive conversation, three discussion groups will be formed to explore each "tool" facilitated by experts and activists from the NGO Major Group. The knowledge exchanged between these groups will result in an outcome document highlighting the tools which NGOs across the globe may use to aid in the transformation towards more resilient and sustainable societies.

Background

Thematic Discussion #1: Policy Developments

New policy developments, such as the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (known as the (Escazú) Convention on Principle 10), Global Compact on Migration, and the proposed Global Pact for the Environment provide NGOs new leverages in their work on SDG implementation. For example, the Convention on Principle 10 provides the means by which every person can have equal access to land, water and energy while protecting the environment through sustainable consumption and production practices. It is also an illustration of how the entitlement of human rights and environmental defenders can be protected and how those furthest behind should always be at the center.

Participants in this discussion group will exchange information, knowledge and experiences regarding how best to use these new policy frameworks in their own initiatives and projects.

Thematic Discussion #2: Application of the Interlinkages Principle

In order for the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda to be fully achieved, the 17 SDGs must be approached holistically, recognizing their interlinked and overlapping nature, and that progress and challenges in one area also impact others. Understanding these interlinkages enables the full exploitation of the synergies between the six SDGs under review in 2018 as well as the remaining SDGs and human rights principles; assists in integrated planning,

assessments and management; supports advocacy and decision-making; fosters collaboration and partnerships; reduces redundancy and investment costs and facilitates implementation.

For example, interlinkages that significantly affect human rights, economic and social development and the environment, include: 1) the impact of various forms of pollution (e.g. plastic waste) on the access to clean and safe water and sanitation, and energy 2) how the industrial production of livestock and feed contributes to deforestation, species extinction, pollution and climate change; destabilize rural communities and food security, and more. Participants will begin with a brief exploration of these issues through case studies, followed by an interactive exercise to stimulate ideas on cross-sectoral SDG implementation.

Thematic Discussion #3: Influencing Cross-cutting Issues

At a fundamental level, achievement of the 2030 Agenda will not be accomplished without strategic management of issues like financing for development and means of implementation. Without democratic, participatory and accountable funding systems that serve the needs of communities, as well as capacity development, technology transfer, good governance, active participation of the most vulnerable communities, and other means of implementation, the goals of the 2030 Agenda will remain out of reach. Participants will consider how these and other cross-cutting issues impact the achievement of the Agenda, and explore how to leverage these issues to improve outcomes.

Format

Recognizing the inclusive and participatory nature of the NGO Major Group, this event will facilitate meaningful participation for both members and those outside of New York via social media. The event will be opened by a keynote speaker who will outline the current global picture for NGOs working on the SDGs, highlighting areas of success and collaboration, as well as the challenges many organizations are facing in the implementation of the SDGs. Moderators will then invite participants to break into three discussion groups which will examine the issues outlined above, with experts from the NGO Major Group facilitating the discussions.

The priority for the discussions will be on solutions and ideas for how national and local NGOs can work better with their communities, governments, the private sector and each other. Groups will then offer their feedback, which will be compiled into a reference document that all stakeholders may adopt in the future. The information aims to be a tool that organizations can use and reference in all stages of their work to increase the positive impact they have on empowering communities and individuals to help achieve the SDGs.

Co-Sponsor Organizations:

1. Action for Sustainable Development
2. Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation
3. Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
4. British Columbia Council for International Cooperation
5. Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (International center of comparative environmental law)
6. CIVICUS
7. Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group, All Win Network
8. Compassion in World Farming
9. Cruelty Free International
10. Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association
11. Dianova International
12. DRCNet Foundation
13. East Africa Climate Change Network
14. Engineers Without Borders Canada
15. Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
16. Green the Gene
17. Haurralde Foundation
18. Hivos
19. Human Rights Center In Iraq
20. IAHV International Association for Human Values
21. Institute for Planetary Synthesis
22. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
23. International Association of Applied Psychology
24. International Association of Schools of Social Work
25. International Council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV)
26. International Federation for Medical Students' Associations
27. International Presentation Association
28. Jago Nari (Fighting For Women Empowerment)
29. Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement
30. Korea SDGs Network
31. Kushian Immigrant for Protection & Save Society
32. Labour, Health And Human Rights Development Center
33. Let There Be Light International
34. LIDE
35. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc. /Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
36. MY World Mexico
37. New Future Foundation
38. NGO Committee on Financing for Development
39. NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

40. Nuba Mountains International Association
41. Peace Boat US
42. Reacción Climática - Bolivia
43. RESURJ
44. Saudi Green Building Forum
45. School Sisters of Notre Dame
46. Shumei International
47. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues & Psychology Coalition of NGOs
Accredited at the UN
48. Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
49. Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative (SFFI), www.sffinepal.org
50. The Millennials Movement
51. UCT International cultural development INC.
52. Uganda National NGO Forum
53. UNANIMA International
54. UNESCO Etxea - UNESCO Basque Country Centre
55. United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
56. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
57. VIVAT International
58. WaterAid
59. WDF
60. Women Thrive Alliance
61. World Council of Peoples for the United Nations
62. World Vision
63. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance