



TAP Network Response to the Draft Resolution on HLPF and 2030 Agenda Follow-up and Review

The following brief outlines the key recommendations and critical language amendments from the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network – a coalition of over 200 civil society organizations in over 50 countries working to ensure that the 2030 Agenda fosters open, inclusive, transparent, accountable and participatory follow-up and review at all levels, including through the HLPF.

Summary

- Despite the fact that the commitment to “leave no one behind” was a founding principle of the 2030 Agenda, this resolution notably lacks any references and language around ensuring that no one is left behind, the commitment to reach those furthest behind first or the “people-centered” nature of this Agenda and its follow-up and review. To remain true to the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, language must reflect the commitments made by Member States
- We strongly call for two HLPF sessions to be held in 2019, and at the end of each four-year HLPF cycle, in order to accurately reflect the language and spirit of Resolution 67/290 on this issue. This is also a prerequisite for comprehensive follow-up and review of the SDGs through each four-year HLPF cycle.
- Language around the participation of the Major Groups and other stakeholders must be strengthened throughout this document, particularly to remain true to the call from Rio+20, Resolution 67/290 and the 2030 Agenda to promote transparency and enhance participation through the HLPF and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.
- Language encouraging Member States to report with greater frequency must be re-inserted and strengthened in this resolution. We call for Member States to submit **at least three voluntary national reviews** between now and 2030.

Recommendations for text amendments

PP2bis – Leaving no one behind and promoting accountability between states and their citizens

While ‘leave no one behind’ has become the rallying cry of the 2030 Agenda, the zero draft resolution on HLPF follow-up and review lacks any reference to the ‘people-centred’ nature of the agenda and the commitment of Member States to focus on the progress of the poorest and most vulnerable people. Without concrete action to put the ‘leave no one behind’ principle into practice, including in global follow-up and review processes, it risks becoming a meaningless pledge. Accordingly, this principle should be strengthened throughout the zero draft, including in Preamble Paragraph 3. Additionally, we are discouraged that language around promoting accountability to citizens has been deleted in this draft, and strongly calls for this language to be reinserted.

PP2bis. Further reaffirming that in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States committed to engage in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda and to promote accountability to its citizens in accordance with agreed guiding principles, including to leave no one behind by focusing on the poorest, most vulnerable, most discriminated and those furthest behind, and asserted that the high-level political forum will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. Operating at the national, regional and global levels, it will promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning.

Paragraph 3 – Highlighting the interlinkages through HLPF thematic reviews

An in-depth review of a sub-set of goals, as outlined in paragraph 3, will be essential to consider progress on specific SDGs, especially for groups that are the furthest behind in achieving targets. Regardless of which goals are reviewed in-depth in a given year, the interlinkages between all goals and targets should be highlighted every year, and we welcome the additional language provided in this draft around these interlinkages. Additionally, it is critical for Goal 17 to be reviewed each year with various sub-sets of goals, and we strongly call for the retention of this language in this paragraph.

3. Further decides that the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, interlinked nature of the sustainable development goals, will discuss a set of goals and their interlinkages at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review on progress of all goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with goal 17 reviewed annually based on the outcome of the Financing for Development Forum;

Paragraph 4 – Themes that reflect the depth, breadth and language from the SDGs and 2030 Agenda

TAP recommends that Member States ensure that the themes better reflect the language and ambition of the SDGs. In addition, the theme for 2019 should not only focus on ensuring ‘inclusiveness’ but also participation and equitable outcomes for all people, including most vulnerable, discriminated and marginalized communities and those furthest behind. Additionally, we strongly call for there to be two HLPF sessions in 2019 – one under the auspices of ECOSOC and one under the auspices of the UNGA. This reflects

the language and spirit of Resolution 67/290, which called for two HLPFs – under both the auspices of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly – every four years.

4. Decides therefore that for the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council the themes and sets of goals shall be:

▪ 2017

Theme: Ensuring food security and nutrition on a safe and sustainable planet by 2030

Set of focus goals: 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15 and 17

▪ 2018

Theme: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and building productive capacities

Set of focus goals: 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 17

▪ 2019

Theme: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness, gender equality, participation and equitable outcomes for all

Set of focus goals: 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17

Paragraphs 6 and 7 – Sufficient time for national reviews, recommendations for implementation and increasing the ambition for frequency of national voluntary reviews

We strongly call for paragraph 8 of the zero draft text – which encouraged Member States to conduct two reviews between now and 2030 – to be re-inserted into this resolution, and increasing the ambition and call in this paragraph for Member States to carry out **at least three voluntary national reviews** at the HLPF between now and 2030. Recognition of the need for regular frequency of national reviews will be critical to allow the HLPF and the international community to collectively “keep its finger on the pulse” and to address any challenges that transcend national borders, especially those related to the means of implementation.

Reviews should also provide for multi-stakeholder participation and meaningful dialogue and accordingly be based on a government report (including information on consultations conducted with non-state actors in developing the report), a UN report summarizing information from non-state actors, and a UN report summarizing information from across the UN system. These reports and all inputs informing these reports should be made available in an online portal in a timely, open and user-friendly manner.

Additionally, meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the national review should be ensured. Processes for consultation need to be inclusive, transparent and participatory to increase ownership and 2030 Agenda accountability. In view of this, governments must provide an enabling environment and concrete opportunities for all people - men, women and children alike - to participate in these processes. Ideally, there should be minimum criteria and standards for Member States to aspire to and meet when engaging with all stakeholders in the national reporting process.

6. Takes note with appreciation of the preparations for the voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2016 and encourages that experience gained from this and future sessions should be taken into consideration so as to ensure that the reviews are afforded appropriate organizational

arrangements, *including sufficient time, bearing in mind that their aim is to facilitate the sharing of experiences including successes, challenges and lessons learnt and to identify gaps and provide recommendations that further the implementation of sustainable development commitments.*

7. ~~Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to encourage voluntary national reviews~~—Decides that Member States from all countries, including countries in special situations, shall carry out at least three voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum between now and 2030 based on a State report, a UN report summarizing information from non-state actors on progress made towards meeting the SDGs, and a UN report summarizing information and data from across the UN system;

[ADD] 7 bis. Encourages Member States to ensure meaningful participation of all stakeholders when conducting voluntary national reviews, and take their inputs into account. These national processes for consultation should be inclusive, transparent and participatory to ensure society ownership and accountability. Member States are also encouraged to include a variety of stakeholders in their delegations to the high-level political forum.

Paragraph 8 – Encouraging reporting by Member States at the HLPF

Language encouraging Member States to report with greater frequency must be re-inserted and strengthened in this resolution. We call for Member States to submit **at least three voluntary national reviews** between now and 2030.

8. Encourages Member States to consider carrying out two voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum between now and 2030;

Paragraph 9 – Utilizing and building upon voluntary reporting guidelines

Member states should be encouraged to use the voluntary reporting guidelines provided by the Secretary-General report on critical milestones for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. These common voluntary reporting guidelines can help promote cross-country comparability between reports, which will be necessary to assess progress and to identify gaps in implementation. This assessment should also focus on outcomes, rather than activities, when reporting on progress.

9. Encourages Member States to use the voluntary common reporting guidelines as provided for in the annex to the report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level and Requests the Secretary-General to update, as appropriate, these voluntary common reporting guidelines in consultation with Member States, major groups and other relevant stakeholders ~~as provided for in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General~~, and to make them publicly available to Member States as a suggested reference tool in the preparation for voluntary national reviews.

Paragraph 11 – Devoting sufficient time and attention to countries in special circumstances

TAP welcomes the recognition in paragraph 11 that adequate time shall be devoted to countries in special situations including those in conflict and post-conflict situations, and strongly calls to retain this language. Additionally, language should be added on the need for additional forums for discussions on countries in special circumstances to be held in advance of the HLPF, in order to ensure sufficient time is allocated to these countries and to avoid overburdening the HLPF.

11. Reaffirms that the meetings of the forum shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing *countries in special situations, and decides that forums for these countries shall be convened prior to the HLPF, including for developing countries, ~~including the~~ most vulnerable countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries as well as recognize the challenges faced by African countries, middle income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, ensuring that no country is left behind.*

Paragraph 12 – Promoting transparency, enhancing participation and innovative arrangements for engagement of stakeholders

We note that the text extracted from paragraph 14 of Resolution 67/290 – notably around promoting transparency and enhancing the participation of the Major Groups and other stakeholders – is missing in this paragraph, and strongly call for it to be re-inserted here. This will ensure that the true spirit of Paragraph 14 from Resolution 67/290 is captured in this paragraph, and the encouragement of Member States to continually look to improve and enhance stakeholder participation – as called for through Rio+20, Resolution 67/290 and the 2030 Agenda – is explicitly recognized.

We also strongly support the language in this paragraph regarding “innovative” arrangements for the engagement of stakeholders in the HLPF. Member States must ensure that global follow-up and review processes ‘leave no one behind’ by addressing the financial, linguistic, logistical, technological or age barriers that prevent the participation of traditionally excluded groups, including children and people with disabilities, in the HLPF.

12. *Reiterates the need for the high-level political forum to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and meaningful participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, and encourages decides that in the organization of the meetings of the high-level political forum, building on resolution 67/290, innovative and inclusive arrangements including web-based interfaces ~~should shall be implemented considered~~ so as to support the effective, broad and balanced participation particularly of traditionally excluded groups including children, women, people with disabilities, people excluded based on caste, work and descent and the poorest and most vulnerable people, by region and by type of organization;*

Paragraph 14 – Major Groups and other stakeholders reporting to the HLPF

Just like voluntary reviews from Member States, stakeholders who report at the HLPF on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also be encouraged to make recommendations for further implementation. These reports should be considered by the HLPF in a similar fashion to reviews from Member States, and should be made publicly available alongside all voluntary national reviews on the HLPF website.

14. *Reiterates the call to major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and encourages ~~the private sector and civil society these stakeholders~~ to inform the United Nations of their commitments to implement it, and to make recommendations to further implementation, as part of their contribution to follow-up and review;*

Paragraph 15 – Taking up inputs from stakeholders and other multilateral processes

We welcome this paragraph, but call for the recognition in this paragraph that all inputs from stakeholders, partnerships and multilateral processes should be taken up by the HLPF and should be made publicly available. To ensure that these inputs will actually be taken into account, they should be synthesized in a concise and user-friendly manner and be published on a publicly available web platform alongside inputs from Member States and the UN System.

15. Underscores that all inputs to the High-Level Political Forum, including all written and oral inputs from a range of other stakeholders, multi-stakeholder partnerships, regional bodies and multilateral processes, shall feed into all reviews at the high-level political forum and shall be made available and easily accessible, utilizing existing web-based platforms.

Paragraph 16 – Filling gaps to build upon existing mechanisms

While the 2030 Agenda and this resolution call for building upon existing platforms for follow-up and review, an acknowledgement must be made that in some cases, platforms might not exist to build upon for certain thematic issues, or issues relating to certain constituencies – particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. In the case where no platforms exist, Member States must commit to filling these gaps.

16. ... encourages that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review takes into account the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and requests the Economic and Social Council to facilitate spaces for issues related to marginalised and excluded groups and those that are furthest behind not and not currently addressed by the present system General Assembly and its main committees, the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional commissions...

Paragraph 20 – HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and UN General Assembly in 2019

Given the different roles of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly and ECOSOC as outlined in resolution 67/290, the **TAP Network strongly supports the retention of language in paragraph 20 that the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will occur every year, including in 2019 when it meets under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.**

Paragraph 21 – ECOSOC President’s Summary as an outcome of the HLPF each year

TAP strongly supports the inclusion of a summary by the President of ECOSOC to be included as an official outcome of the HLPF each year in addition to the Ministerial Declaration. However, it will be critical that this summary includes a synthesis of recommendations made in advance of the HLPF and during the HLPF meetings. Concrete recommendations for Member States and stakeholders alike to act upon in the time between HLPFs will be essential to accelerate implementation and foster partnerships.

*21. Reaffirms its decision as provided in resolution 67/290 that the outcome of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will result in a negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided, and invites decides that the President of the Economic and Social Council will ~~to~~ prepare a **factual** summary of the meeting including a synthesis of recommendations made in advance of reviews and recommendations arising from reviews;*

[ADD] Paragraph 23 – Encouraging Contribution to HLPF Voluntary Trust Fund

We note that the zero draft lacks language encouraging contributions to the voluntary trust fund of the HLPF, particularly to support the participation of developing countries, Major Groups and other

stakeholders. This will be important to ensure that we leave no one behind, as lack of resources are a direct financial barrier to ensuring participation in the HLPF.

[ADD] 23. *Encourages* Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the high-level political forum, to help support their order to facilitate the participation of developing countries, the least developed countries, representatives of major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the forum