

Preparing for the 2020 HLPF: *Background, Overview and TAP Engagement*

What is the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)?

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is a multi-stakeholder platform engaging 197 members states in the exchange of experiences in implementation of the SDGs, identifying gaps and lessons learned. It is also a forum for rallying further action and solutions to this end by all stakeholders. The HLPF seeks to enhance the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The HLPF also provides a platform for the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the promotion of international cooperation as we advance towards achieving the Goals. It meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days.¹

You can find more about the 2020 HLPF on the official HLPF website [here](#).

Background on the 2020 HLPF

Given the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, **the 2020 HLPF will be hosted in an entirely virtual format this year**, with very limited participation of Member State delegations in New York, as necessary. This provides distinct challenges as it relates to coordinating the activities and outcomes of the 2020 HLPF, but also provides opportunities for a broader range of stakeholders to follow this year's HLPF more closely, and for a more diverse range of organizations to host or engage in official or side-events throughout the HLPF.

You can find a comprehensive Information Note from the HLPF Secretariat on the official HLPF website [here](#).

When is the 2020 HLPF?

The 2020 HLPF will be held from **Tuesday, 7 July to Thursday, 16 July 2020**. This includes a high-level segment from Tuesday, 14 July through Thursday 16 July, with VNR Presentations scheduled from Friday 10 July through Thursday 16 July.

What is the theme of the 2020 HLPF?

The theme of the 2020 HLPF is *"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*

Official Programme of 2020 HLPF

You can find the **official programme** of the 2020 HLPF on the official HLPF website [here](#).

You can find the **annotated programme** of the 2020 HLPF, which provides details on each session of the HLPF [here](#).

¹ UNDESA, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020#about>

Civil Society Participation in the 2020 HLPF

You can find the most up-to-date information regarding **stakeholder engagement in the 2020 HLPF** on the HLPF website [here](#).

Given that the 2020 HLPF will be hosted in a virtual format this year, **registration** for any organizations wishing to “attend” or engage in the 2020 HLPF meetings **will not be required**. Instead, all meetings will be broadcast virtually via [UN Web TV](#), and all side-events will be hosted on various virtual conference call platforms. While following the official HLPF sessions does not require registration, **participation in various side-events MAY REQUIRE registration in advance**. You can find a full list of all of the side-events and special events, along with relevant registration information, on the HLPF 2020 [website here](#).

All stakeholder engagement in official HLPF meetings is facilitated by the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism’s Steering Group, and will be pre-determined in advance of the 2020 HLPF. Those individuals interested in staying updated on stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout the 2020 HLPF and beyond can register for the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism [Mailing List here](#).

You can find a document that provides an overview of stakeholder engagement opportunities related to the HLPF overall [here](#).

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2020 HLPF

In total, 47 countries have volunteered to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2020 HLPF. VNR Presentations will begin starting on Friday, 10 July, and will continue through the high-level segment of the HLPF through 16 July. All VNRs will be presented virtually, either by a pre-recorded video or a livestreamed intervention from each delegation. For more information on the VNR Sessions schedule, check out the programme of the [2020 HLPF here](#).

You can find more information about the **VNR countries, and read full VNR reports** on the [2020 HLPF website here](#).

Special Events and Side-Events

In addition to the official sessions of the 2020 HLPF, this year’s meeting will feature virtual side-events and special events that participants can register for and attend from all around the world.

You can find up-to-date information on all of these **special events and side-events** on the [2020 HLPF website here](#).

The TAP Network at the 2020 HLPF

The TAP Network will engage deeply in the 2020 HLPF, including through the **hosting of several special events and side-events** over the course of these two weeks. While in-person coordination for advocacy around the 2020 HLPF will not be a feature of TAP’s engagement this year, we hope that many of you are able to join for some of TAP’s events. Please note that **all of these events will require registration in advance, so please plan accordingly and register your interest ASAP!**

You can find an overview of all of the TAP Network's events at the 2020 HLPF on our website at www.tapnetwork2030.org/2020hlpf