

Joint letter to UN Member States: Ensure meaningful civil society participation in the 2020 virtual HLPF

June 2020

Dear Excellencies,

We, the undersigned 460 civil society organisations (CSOs) from 115 countries, write to seek your support in ensuring the effective participation of civil society during the upcoming UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) scheduled for 7-16 July 2020. As the preeminent multistakeholder body responsible for the review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), HLPF processes derive strength from the engagement of diverse actors including a broad range of civil society organisations (CSOs) working at various levels. As the HLPF transitions to virtual communication and convening for its July 2020 session due to the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that all relevant actors, including States and UN agencies, support and devise clear modalities to enable robust virtual civil society participation.

In response to disruptions caused by COVID-19, a number of Inter-governmental bodies have taken concerted efforts to facilitate extensive virtual participation in official meetings. Inclusive virtual modalities are crucial to supporting international cooperation in the spirit of multilateralism. An enabling environment for all stakeholders to participate that takes into account digital divides is thus crucial.

In his “We are all in this Together” statement of 23 April 2020, UN Secretary General António Guterres underlined the importance of promoting and protecting civic space in response to COVID-19. With respect to the SDGs, Secretary General Guterres unequivocally stated that, “Looking ahead, we need to build back better. The Sustainable Development Goals — which are underpinned by human rights — provide the framework for more inclusive and sustainable economies and societies”. Civil society is key to implementing the SDGs and we must take united action to ensure that the virtual HLPF reflects the broad spectrum of stakeholders who are committed to creating The World We Want.

To this end, we urge all states and UN agencies to support the following measures:

- Provide an opportunity for at least three Major Group and Other stakeholders to respond to each Voluntary National Review (VNR), one of which should be from civil society.
- Representatives from national civil society groups voices should be prioritized for inclusion during the HLPF, with adequate representation from regional and international civil society organisations.
- Written questions should also be presented and answered within a month of the HLPF for those who are unable to ask their question within the given time of the VNR session.
- All civil society shadow VNR reports should be published on the UN’s official HLPF website.
- Ensure side events are inclusive of stakeholder participation, including a wide range of civil society led side online events to be shared in the official programme.
- Identify more participatory approaches to engage with stakeholders on an ongoing basis, including best practice on use of online meeting technology to provide inputs, to ensure a more inclusive process before, during and after the main HLPF sessions

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A Toda Voz AC	Aid Organization	Argentine Network for International Cooperation - RACI
Aakash Welfare Society Hyderabad	AIDS-Fondet - The Danish AIDS Foundation	ARTICLE 19
Access Now	AidWatch Canada	Asia Dalit Rights Forum
Acción Solidaria	AIESEC MÉXICO A.C.	Asia Development Alliance
ACCIONA Transformando Caminos para SER y HACER A.C.	Al Dua welfare organization	Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center
Accountability Lab	Al Falah Organization Islampur Swat	Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)
Achtung labs private limited	Alberta Council for Global Cooperation	Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales (ASONOG)
ACT Alliance	Alfalah Tanzeem Swat	Asociación Mexicana de Amigos Metabólicos, A.C. A.C.
ActionAid Denmark	Alimentos de México a Compartir, A. C.	Asociación Nacional de Síndrome de Williams AC
ActionAid International	Alkhidmat Foundation GB	Association femmes leadership et développement durable
Action for Sustainable Development	Allai Development Organization	Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh)	American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia
ADD International	Amnesty International	Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
Adivasi Women's Network	Amnistia Internacional, Portugal	Association Nationale des Partenaires Migrants
Adivasi-Koordination, Germany	Animis Philanthropic Ventures Inc.	Associations 21
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation	Arab Youth Platform for Sustainable Development - League of Arab States	Augustinians International (Curia Generalizia Agostiniana)
Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)	ARCADIA - Romanian Association for International Cooperation and Development	Avoid Accident
Ageing Nepal		
Agenda Cero A.C.		

Awaz Foundation Pakistan	Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV)	Civic Initiatives
AwazCDS-Pakistan		CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Azat Foundation	Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)	Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development
Baghbaan	Center for Civil Liberties	Civil Society SDGs Campaign/GCAP Zambia
Bai Indigenous Womens Network in the Philippines	Center for Environmental Concerns - Philippines	CIVILIS Derechos Humanos
Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network	Center for National and International Studies	COAST Trust
Bangladesh Nari Progati Shangha (BNPS)	Centre for Environmental Justice	Colectivo Ollin, Alternativas para la Comunicación, la Sexualidad y el Desarrollo Comunitario AC
Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication	Centre for Human Rights and Development	Colectivo pro Inclusión e Igualdad Jalisco, A. C.
Biosauenergie	Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur	Colores del Rincón A.C. - MY World México
Bond	Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI)	Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group
Born Free Foundation	Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights	Commons for EcoJustice
Bright Star Development Society Balochistan (BSDSB)	Centro de Arte y Cultura Popular Tonalteca A.C.	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
British Columbia Council For International Cooperation	Centro de Justicia y Paz - Cepaz	Commonwealth Medical Trust
Brooke	Centros de cuidado, Atención y educación integral coralitos AC	Community Advancement through Research & Development CARD
Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID)	ChildHelp Sierra Leone	Community Initiatives for development in Pakistan
Burundi Child Rights Coalition (BCRC)	Christian Blind Mission	Comunidad de Organizaciones Solidarias
CAFSO-WRAG for Development	Church of Sweden	Concord Italia
Canadian Council for International Co-operation	Church Women United Washington DC Unit	
Cancer Aid Society		

CONCORD Sweden	Danish United Nations Association	Dr. Tristaca McCray
Congrégation des soeurs de Notre Dame de Charité du Bon Pasteur	Dawn Development Organization	DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal	Debasis Chowdhury Rana	DUF - The Danish Youth Council
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)	Earth Community
Congregation of the Mission	Dehi Ijtimai Tarqyati Social Workers Council (DITSWC)	East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN)
Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca A.C:	Dehi Taraqiyati Tanzeem (DTT) BILLITANG KOHAT KPK	Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research
Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD)	Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)	Edmund Rice International
CoopeSoliDar R.L	Desértica, Soluciones Endovasculares A.C.	EMPOWER INDIA
Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas CONGCOOP	Despertares Derechos Humanos	Empresa marhnos®
Council for NGOs in Malawi - CONGOMA	Development Dynamics	Environmental Partnership Council
Council for Participatory Development	DHEWA (development for health education work & awareness) Welfare Society Chakwal Bheen	EOS - Association for Studies, Cooperation and Development
Crispin Swedi Bilombele	Dillu Prasad Ghimire	Equality Bahamas
CRV & Co	District Development Association	Equality For All Development Organisation
D.C. Unit Church Women United	District Development Association Tharparkar (DDAT)	Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation
Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation	Dóchas	Ethiopian Human Rights Council
Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal	Dominican Leadership Conference	European Youth Forum
Dalit Youth Alliance (DYA)	Dosse SOSSOUGA	Fagaras Research Institute
DanChurchAid		Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights

Feminist Dalit Organizations (FEDO)	Friends of Angola	Global Call to Action against Poverty
FIAN Sri Lanka	FUNDACIÓN CONSTRUIR	Global Citizen
Finnish Development NGOs Fingo	Fundación Dibujando un Mañana	Global Integrity
Fixing The World	Fundación Heinrich Böll - Ciudad de México, México y el Caribe	Global NGO Executive Committee
FKM BKA YWU	Fundación Mexicana de Medicina Paliativa y Alivio del Dolor en Cáncer A.C.	Global Shepherds
FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development	Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar, A. C. MEXFAM	Globalt Fokus
Fondazione Proclade Internazionale - onlus	FUNDACIÓN MÉXICO MOTIVACTE A.C	Good Shepherd International Foundation- Nepal
Food Security Network-PRAN	Fundación MYWM- MY World México	Good Shepherd Sisters
Foreign Spouses Support Group and Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship	Fundación Sanders AC	Gopal Kiran Samaj Sevi Sanstha
Former Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission Nepal	FUNDACION SERENDIPIA A.C.	Governance, Elections, Advocacy, Research Services (GEARS) Initiative Zambia
Forum for Women in Democracy	Fundamedios	Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)
Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan	Gals Forum International	GREENfluidics
Forum Syd	Gatef organization	Groupe d'Action pour le Progrès et la Paix (G.A.P.P.-Afrique)
Forus	Generacion2030	Groupe d'Action pour le Progrès et la Paix (G.A.P.P.-BÉNIN)
Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV)	GESIP Centro para la Gestión Integral y Participativa S.C.	Groupe d'Action pour le Progrès et la Paix (G.A.P.P.-Mali)
Foundation For Sustainable Development and Climate Action (FSDCA)	Gestión Estratégica para Resultados de Desarrollo S.C.	Grupo Holístico para el bienestar investigación y desarrollo social Integral, A.C
Freshwater Action Network Mexico (FANMex)	Gestos (soropositividade, comunicação, gênero)	H. AYUNTAMIENTO DE TECAMACHALCO, PUEBLA MEX.
		HAKI Africa

HelpAge Deutschland	International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists	Kafka Welfare Organization
Hevas Innovación	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development	Kamal Subedi
Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP)	International Open Network	Kanimi EcoTienda
IMCS Pax Romana	International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)	Karapatan Alliance Philippines
IMS (International Media Support)	International Planned Parenthood Federation	Kathak Academy
Incidencia y Gobernanza Ambiental AC	International Service for Human Rights	Khpal Kore Organization
INCIDIR, A. C.	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	KINDERENERGY
Institute for Socioeconomic Studies - INESC	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs	Kothowain (Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary -Loreto Generalate	INTRAC	Kyawkrup Foundation
Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD)	Jaag Welfare Movement	La Transformación del Graffiti al Arte Pictórico, A. C.
Instituto Potosino de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, AC	Jairos Jiri Association	Lanakaná Principios Sustentáveis
International Association for Religious Freedom Coordination Council for South Asia	Jandran Welfare Foundation	Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
International Commission of Jurists	Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs	Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation
International Federation of Business and Professional Women	Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)	Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
International IPMSDL	Jeunes Verts Togo	Lepaje Environmental Organization
International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED)	Julián Carrillo My Words México Kids	Let There Be Light International
	Juventud 2030 GTO.	LGBT+ Danmark
	K.U.L.U. - Women and Development (KULU)	Life Education and Development Support (LEADS)
		Light for the World
		LSO Sada-e-Thal Welfare Organization

Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	National Campaign for Education Nepal	NGOCSW/NYC Women and Girls of African Descent Caucus N. America, Latin America and the Caribbean Descent N. America,
Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance	National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal	
Maldives NGO Federation	National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights	Nigeria Network of NGOs
Maleya Foundation		Noakhali Rural Development Organization
Maranatha Hope	National CSO Platform of Sri Lanka	NOSOTROS POR LOS NIÑOS CON CÁNCER A.C.
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.	National Integrated Development Association (NIDA-Pakistan)	Observatory of Vulnerable peoples' Rights (OVPR)
Más Coudanía, AC		
Mechanism for Rational Change MERC	National Organization for Sustainable Development (NOSD)	Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation (OOSAIF)
Medical Mission Sisters	National Trade Union Center (NTUC Phi)	ONAAR Development Organization
Mihai and Maria Foundation		
Mitini Nepal	National Youth Council of Russia	ONE (SINGAPORE)
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health & Rights	Neelab Children and Women Development council	ONG PADJENA
Mujer Y Salud en Uruguay - MYSU	Neighbourhood Community Network	Open School of Sustainable Development (Openshkola)
MUSONET	Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI)	Organizacion Mexicana de Enfermedades Raras
MY World Mexico	Nepal Climate Change Federation	Organización por la Cooperación Ecológica A.C.
Myanmar Youth Foundation for SDG	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization	Organization for the Marginalized And Neglected Groups OMANG
Nagorik Uddyog		
Natasha Dokovska	Nepal SDGs Forum	Our Fish, Denmark
National Advocacy for Rights of Innocent-NARI Foundation	NGO EFA	Outreach Social Care Project - OSCAR
National Campaign Against COVID-19	NGO Federation of Nepal	OutRight Action International

Pakistan Development Alliance (GCAP-Pakistan)	Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en DDHH (Provea)	Réseau Centrafricain au Leadership des Jeunes Femmes en Afrique Francophone
Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights	Projonma Academy	Réseau de Défenseurs des Droits Humains de l'Afrique Centrale (REDHAC)
Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)	Promotora Juvenil don Bosco AC	Roberto ravagnani
Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN	Proyecto Cantera Juntos por México AC	Rozaria Memorial Trust
Peace Infinity	Purvanchal Rural Development and Training Institute	Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)
Peace Justice Youth Organization	Radanar Ayar Association	Rural community devlipment council Gwadar
PEREMPUAN AMAN	Real Vision Development Organization	Rutgers
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement	Reality of Aid - Asia Pacific (RoA-AP)	S.O.S. - Criança e Desenvolvimento Integrale de ANG
Plan International	Red Agenda 2030 MX	SAHARA Voluntary Social Welfare Agency
PlanBørnefonden	Red Ciudadana 2030 por el Desarrollo Sostenible	Sahara Welfare Foundation
Plataforma de ONG de Accion Social	Red de Educadores Ambientales de Chihuahua	Saif Khan
Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD (NGDO Portuguese Platform)	Red Nicaraguense de Comercio Comunitario (RENICC)	Samarthyam
Portuguese National Youth Council	Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation (RCIDC)	Sami Foundation
Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights	REPACT Africa	Saudi Green Building Forum
POSCO Agenda 2030/GCAP Sénégal	Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL)	Save the Children International
Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA)	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CHFED)	School of International Futures
Povod		SDG Action Alliance Bangladesh
		SDGs National Network Nepal
		SDSN Youth Mexico

Semillas para la Democracia	Society for Access to Quality Education	Teresa Kotturan
SEND-GHANA/Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs	Society for Education and Development	The Inclusivity Project
SERAC-Bangladesh	Society for Indigenous Women's Progress	The National Civic Forum - Sudan
SERR Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconciliacion y Reconstruccion	Society for Sustainable Development	The National Council of NGOs/Action on Sustainable Development Goals Kenya Coalition
SEVERE Joseph	Society for the Empowerment of the People	The Nationwide Movement Yuksalish
Sex & Samfund / The Danish Family Planning Association	Soka Gakkai International	The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment
Shaur Taraqiyati Tanzeem	Soñando y Construyendo por un México Mejor a.c	Think Centre
Shirley Ann Sullivan Educational Foundation	Soroptimist International	Tirtha Biswokarma
Shivi Development Society	Spektro Asociación para el Desarrollo Social	Toktli Educación Ambiental
Sindh Desert Development Organization	Sri Lanka Nature Group	Uganda National NGO Forum
Sindh Rural Development Organization	Sudan SDGs Platform	Uganda Network of Young People living with HIV/AIDS (UNYPA)
Sistemico, Regeneración Socioambiental AC	Sukaar Welfare Organization	UNA Sweden
SLOGA Slovene NGO Platform for Development, Global Education and Humanitarian Aid	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment.	Unanima International
Slum Child Empowerment and Development Initiative	Sustainable Development Organization (SDO)	UNANIMA International
Smile Myanmar	Taiwan AID	Union de l'Action Féministe
Social and Economic Development Asociareas (SEDA)	Takhleeq Foundation	Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social - UNITAS
Social Economic and Governance Promotion Centre	Taraqee Foundation	Unitarian Universalist Association
	Teerath Kumar	
	Temple of Understanding	United Disabled Person of Kenya

United Global Organization of Development (UGOOD)	Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (DBA-Women First International Fund)	Women's Rights and Democracy Centre (WORD Centre)
United Nations Association of Fiji	Vision GRAM-International	WomenShade Pak
Universidad Anáhuac Mayab	Voces de Cambio, Agenda para el Desarrollo	World Animal Net
Universidad Tecnológica de los Valles Centrales de Oaxaca	Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)	World Federalist Movement - Canada
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	Youth Action Hub Guinea - CNUCED
Vaagdhara	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan	Youth For Environment Education And Development Foundation (YFEED Foundation)
Vabieka Fest, Festival Internacional de Payasas.	Water, Environment & Sanitation Society (WESS)	Youth Inter-Active
Validity Foundation - Mental Disability Advocacy Centre	Women & Child Welfare Society	Yuma Inzolia
Varieties of Democracy Institute	Women Deliver	YZ Proyectos de Desarrollo a.C.
VIER PFOTEN International	Women's Center for Guidance and Legal Awareness	Zakir Hossain
Village Development Organization (VDO)		Zonta International