



Voluntary Pledge for Supporting Stakeholder Participation in HLPF 2020

Stakeholders play a central role in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is one of the largest gatherings of civil society and other major stakeholders in the UN calendar. The resolutions establishing the modalities for the HLPF call for the effective, broad and balanced participation of major groups and stakeholders. We emphasize that this should be guaranteed also in the extraordinary circumstances in which the HLPF in 2020 is organized, with firm action and support by member states.

To ensure that stakeholders can meaningfully participate in the HLPF session in July 2020 we commit to undertake all or some of the following actions:

1. Where possible, **advocate for the effective participation of stakeholders** in the HLPF session, with particular attention paid to the inclusion of civil society, women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.
2. Take steps to, where possible, **provide support for stakeholders**, especially civil society, **to virtually participate** in the HLPF in a meaningful way, including by working with the UN Resident Coordinator's offices.
3. Plan and implement **the national preparatory and follow up processes** for the HLPF in a manner that enables meaningful stakeholder participation.

We also express our support for the steps taken by UNDESA to enable stakeholder participation. Such support is particularly essential for civil society from developing countries, who may lack the means required to access the virtual meetings.



New York, 16 June 2020

Voluntary Pledge to Support Stakeholder Participation in the High Level Political Forum in 2020

Finland, together with Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay, would like to invite all delegations to the United Nations to sign the attached voluntary pledge to support stakeholder participation in the High Level Political Forum in 2020. The commitment has been developed in response to concerns raised by stakeholders, that the extraordinary circumstances in which the HLPF is organized this year will lead to limitations for participation among stakeholders, especially from developing countries. The voluntary actions outlined in the pledge document are therefore intended to address these concerns, and support participation in line with the agreed modalities of the HLPF.

We request for delegations willing to join the pledge to indicate their interest by email to the following addresses: sofie.sandstrom@formin.fi and sanomat.yke@formin.fi. We would request for such indications to be communicated by 30 June, 2020.

Should you require additional information on the pledge please contact Ms. Sofie Sandström, sofie.sandstrom@formin.fi, tel. +1 646 458 1185.

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