



## WMG reaction to HLPF Zero Draft May 17,2016

The Women's Major Group welcomes the Co-facilitators' draft resolution of May 6th towards the processes that will be carried out so that the HLPF becomes the central body to oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we would like to contribute to the dialogue with the following considerations:

1. We believe that the 2030 Agenda calls for an innovative process while at the same time making the best use of existing resources. This is why we are calling for a **continuous review process** throughout every year in the next 15 years, making use of the **existing human rights mechanisms** and reviews of social and economic rights, including major and relevant UN conferences and the outcomes of their reviews and international human rights treaties and instruments. We share the concern of the Co-facilitators that an in-depth review on progress of all goals should be procured. However, we believe that discussing a set of goals at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, as stated in paragraph 3, will have the opposite effect. Even though the draft resolution holds that the HLPF would undertake such a revision 'without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, interlinked nature of the sustainable development goals,' the proposed approach inherently runs the risk of siloing the SDGs, and undermining the comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda. The time breach will also pose hard challenges for developed and developing countries alike, because the lapse between the revision of each goal may become too wide to detect better ways to achieve the results needed. If goals and targets are only reviewed once every 3 years as part of a cluster, this may prevent countries from fully detecting in depth gaps, finding ways in which they can fulfil their commitments, or learning from others through the exchange of experiences. Moreover, the scheme of a revision of goals and targets only during the 8 formal days of the HLPF raises serious questions regarding what could be meaningfully achieved in such a short period of time.

2. A special reference must be made regarding the way in which **cross-cutting principles should be integrated as an inherent element of each of the actions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda** goals and targets. Gender equality, for instance, is a core component that will determine a positive or negative outcome of

the whole Agenda depending on the level of its integration. To that effect, an on-going expert team with a plural and inclusive composition, including Major Groups, civil society, academia and other actors, should be mandated to provide a set of tools for progressive gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Means of Implementation, and be included in 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.

3. In order to emphasize all levels of implementation, Member States should be invited to present **national reviews under the HLPF** more than twice, ideally **three to four times before 2030**; this will allow them to receive recommendations, and report on follow up to recommendations and lessons learned every 4-5 years. We believe innovative ways to do this may be devised to carry out the task.

4. In any process of implementation, follow up and review, we highlight the need to **maximise the participation of civil society and citizens as a whole**. Accountability is a mandate of duty-bearers such as States, and the right to participate is already stated for rights-holders, but even more, it has to be acknowledged that in order to transform our world everybody needs to take ownership of the Agenda. Civil society does not have any duty to inform on commitments to implement actions for sustainable development, because civil society has no mandate to do so and is not in a position to do so either. However, civil society has the expertise, the knowledge, the interest and the right to be part of every step of the implementation of an Agenda that is meant to transform the face of the Earth. Civil society brings essential knowledge and expertise about the impact of the Agenda on those most affected by it. Mechanisms for participation should not only refer the role of civil society in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also to acknowledge and welcome our role to hold duty-bearers accountable.

5. **The private sector, especially large corporations should be regulated in terms of the social and environmental impacts of their work.** All agencies such as the IFIs, the UN partnerships facility, and all UN agencies engaging in 'partnerships' with the private sector -especially large corporations-, should be mandated to **report on the due diligence conducted on all aspects of those corporations work and, separately, that progress toward binding regulatory mechanisms be reported.** It is clear that for the 2030 Agenda to be achieved, the HLPF will need reports on barriers to implementation, and one of those should focus around corporatisation of global governance.

5. It has to be stated that the UN system as a whole should be rising to the challenge to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieve its commitments. In that regard, collaboration with the HLPF is most welcome and desirable. However, **the integrity of each UN platform has to be maintained** in order to address the

global and structural challenges that humanity faces and that will go beyond the next 15 years in a coherent and systematic way. In this regard, the UN System should be pivotal in the multilateral process with the 2030 Agenda as its inspiration, while at the same time maintaining the consistency of the instruments that are at the core of it, which are the results of many battles fought by humanity across the times. We therefore suggest that the specialised agencies and related organisations and funds, and programmes, assist in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda goals and targets and at the same time maintain their core mandate. This **'independent but complementary' principle** must be applied to the annual Economic and Social Council forum on Financing for Development. The FfD Forum will only-be able to make an effective contribution to the crucial Means of Implementation for the 2030 Agenda if it can effectively address the inequitable foundations of the current global economic, trade, finance and investment systems. The HLPF needs to find ways to engage with the UN system in an acknowledgement of the depth of its overall mandate, beyond the 15 years deadline.

We fear that unless these recommendations are addressed, the entire follow up and review process will lead to a non-transformative process.

The WMG looks forward to continuing to on engage in a collaborative way in finding the most efficient paths through which the 2030 Agenda can become a road underneath our steps and very soon to transform our reality.

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