

## 2019 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY REPORT BY THOSE WHO ATTENDED FROM NEW ZEALAND CIVIL SOCIETY AND LIST OF RESOURCES AND LINKS

### WHAT IS THE HLPF AND WHY DID WE ATTEND?

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The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main global platform on sustainable development and attended by all sectors of society. It is an important review mechanism on progress made towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, and a key opportunity to take part in the global discussion on challenges and successes in implementing the SDGs both at global and national level. This year's theme of "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*" was of particular importance to New Zealand, where gaps continue to grow.

The 2019 HLPF also concluded the first 4-year cycle of the 2030 Agenda implementation and it has now reviewed progress against all 17 goals. It precedes the Heads of State Summit on the SDGs in late September, where the HLPF process itself will be reviewed and where Governments are expected to agree to accelerate action. During that same week, the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit and a Summit on Universal Health Coverage will be convened. "We have to be aligned and raise our ambitions - that is the spirit of the UN climate summit in September." says UN SG. "Playing safe wont deliver the results the world needs. We need courage. Civil Society is an essential partner in this fight."

New Zealand was one of 49 countries to present its first voluntary national report (VNR) of our SDG progress, both at home and through our international obligations, to the HLPF this year. VNRs are country-led and serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum.

The Forum was attended by three representatives from New Zealand civil society: Dr Gill Greer and Moko Morris, both co-writers for [New Zealand's first People's Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs](#), and Ronja Ievers, Hui E! Community Aotearoa's External Relations Coordinator.

In light of the Government's announcement in 2018 to present its first VNR to the HLPF, Hui E! convened a small group of civil society organisations to oversee an independent and community-driven analysis of SDG Progress. Dr Gill Greer and Moko Morris were brought on board to co-write the report and substantive contributions were received by over 20 experts and 186 organisations who participated in our survey.

We proposed to meet two community needs with our attendance: 1) to engage the New Zealand community sector on key issues that matter to them, and 2) to present a New Zealand civil society voice at the HLPF.

Attending the HLPF2019 was an important milestone for the People's Report on the Agenda 2030 and SDG, and we were able to share our report with the New Zealand government, foreign governments, the United Nations, and many of our international civil society colleagues.

Our engagement was coordinated through the [Major Groups and Other Stakeholders](#), a mechanism to ensure active participation of all sectors and society and all types of people in UN processes. The Major Groups and Other Stakeholders include the NGO major group, Indigenous Peoples major group, Women's major group, and many others.

Funding for two representatives was provided by the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which is available for overseas travel.

## SOME KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- We were reminded by the deep urgency for sustainable development and climate action, and the need for radical partnerships to seize the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda.
- The [opening remarks by the UN Secretary-General](#) as well as [keynote speech delivered by Screenwriter, Producer and Film Director Richard Curtis](#) during the opening of the high-level political ministerial segment on 16th July brought the message home:
- [5 young eloquent speakers](#) amplified the voices of young people in the fight against climate change and for a more sustainable, just and equal future were amplified (start at 0:11:25).
- SDGs are not just a luxury but they come out of international human rights commitments over decades. We need to use human rights as a driver for realising the SDGs – and to use the SDGs to realise human rights <https://www.humanrights.dk/human-rights-guide-sdgs>
- We also heard of the challenges faced by civil society globally – these include shrinking civic space, both in countries as well as the UN itself, exclusion, disempowerment, and sustainable funding and resourcing. Sustainable development is not going to happen without indigenous people feeling safe and able to speak up.
- Many of the side events we attended were organised by local, national, regional, and global civil society organisations and this was a great opportunity to meet, to exchange learning & experiences and to jointly advocate for transformative change based on the SDGs. Some of those events are highlighted below.
- The Global Week of Action on Peace, Climate and Inequality was launched during the Forum – a call from the peoples on the member states of the UN to take urgent and transformative decisions to attain lasting peace, equality, climate and environmental justice and ensure the survival of our planet for the next generations to come #StandTogether2019. For New Zealand events visit <https://www.sdg.org.nz/global-week-of-action/>
- The New Zealand government presented its first progress report towards the SDGs at the HLPF on 17 July and were able to ask (although not directly answered) two key questions:
  1. **How will the New Zealand government encourage and strengthen meaningful participation and collaboration with Māori and wider civil society in achieving its vision and the SDGs?**
  2. **Will the government set up, in consultation, a framework and national plan that are formally linked to the SDGs?**

- One of our friends from the [Associated Country Women of the World](#) was also able to deliver a statement on behalf of Rural Women NZ on the importance of leaving no one behind. Watch the recording of the presentation and questions asked from the floor [here](#) (start at 0:59:00). The proceedings in New York were also [picked up and reported on in New Zealand media](#).
- An interview with Dr Gill Greer and Ronja Ievers on access radio post HLPF is available at <https://bit.ly/31pTPep> (28 July 2019)
- The political declaration drafted by two member states prior to the HLPF serves as the outcomes document of both the HLPF in July and high-level Summit in September, under the auspices of the General Assembly.
- The Major Group and Other Stakeholders expressed concern with the lack of review on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17 in the adopted Political Declaration, given that the focus is broadly on the next 10 years of implementation, as will be discussed at the SDGs Summit. To complement the adopted Political Declaration, MgoS shared a [“Major Groups and other Stakeholders” outcome document](#) reflecting some of the priority concerns and recommendations to address these SDGs under review.

## **ADDITIONAL KEY RESOURCES AND LINKS**

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### Participatory and inclusive tools to build capacities in leaving no one behind

- #makingvoicesheardandcount – the Leave No One Behind partnership urges decision makers to ensure that the voices of marginalised communities are heard and count in the planning, review, and implementation of the SDGs
- Anthropologist from Oxford University, Rachel Bray, introduced the concept of ‘Merging Knowledge’ – a deeply participatory approach to help people facing extreme poverty and social exclusion dialogue with decision-makers. It is based on 2 principles: full citizenship for all i.e. everyone’s knowledge counts; and guaranteed equalities. She noticed deep attitudinal changes from the peer groups and partnerships evolving.
- Role of communities is critical, as they know the local situation best. Goals 16.7, 16.10 and 17.17 are all addressing citizen participation and engagement
- UN DESA is developing a new tool: SDG learn, compiling tools from across the UN system for capacity building on the SDGs.
- UN DESA Partnerships for the SDGs – [Good Practices and Success Stories on SDG Implementation](#)
- [Institute of Development Studies](#) offers training opportunities for participatory approaches
- [Small Island Developing States Partnership Toolbox](#)

### Importance of evaluation

- Reviewing SDG progress means monitoring and evaluation. More focus has been on monitoring, and less on evaluation but evaluation is essential for country-led reviews
- IIED Briefings: [Evaluation: a critical ingredient for SDG success](#) ; [Realising the SDGs by reflecting on the way\(s\) we reason, plan and act: the importance of evaluative thinking](#) ; [Developing national evaluation capacities in the sustainable development era: four key challenges](#)

### Mediators Beyond Borders MBBi

- MBBi held a workshop on Mediation & Constructive Conflict Engagement designed for delegates and attendees of the HLPF.

- [www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org](http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org) run regular webinars around conflict resolution and courageous conversations
- [Importance of developing key competencies needed to help facilitate civil dialogue](#)
- [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org) – Blueprint for SDG leadership
- [www.ungd.org](http://www.ungd.org) – Leadership solutions for sustainable development
- [www.sdg.iisd.org](http://www.sdg.iisd.org) – SDG strategic plans

#### HLPF Review

- The review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will be officially launched during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2019. FORUS paper on the HLPF REVIEW - "[The review of the HLPF as an opportunity to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation & improve SDG implementation](#)"

#### Civil Society Tools

- [TAP Network SDG Accountability toolkit](#)
- GOAL 16 - "[Empowering Civil Society for National Reporting and Action on SDG16](#)"
- GOAL 17 - "[Funding Civil Society Organisations & Networks - Promising approaches to financing development in the 21st century](#)"
- FORUS paper on CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & VNRS - "[Delivering on the Capacity Development of Civil Society and other Stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda - Analysis of the 2017 & 2018 VNRS to evaluate what national governments are doing in this area](#)"
- CIVICUS Monitor on fundamental freedoms and civic space. Only 43 member states meet commitments to civic space <https://monitor.civicus.org/>
- The Belgrade Declaration on Civic Space was adopted by CSOs during the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) in Belgrade in April 2019. This Declaration calls for positive action by the international community on supporting and protecting civic space and civil society. For more information about **The Belgrade Call to Action** please click on this link: <https://bit.ly/2SnO784>
- The SDG Knowledge Hub <http://sdg.org/sdg-update/about-the-sdg-update-newsletter/>
- [Putting SDG16+ into practice](#) – a visualisation produced by the Civil Society platform for peacebuilding and statebuilding

#### #StandTogetherNow Campaign

- The Global Week of Action on Peace, Climate and Inequality was launched during the Forum – a call from the peoples on the member states of the UN to take urgent and transformative decisions to attain lasting peace, equality, climate and environmental justice and ensure the survival of our planet for the next generations to come.

#### Indigenous Peoples

- Regional Reports from Indigenous Peoples. This [report](#) presents stories from around the world about how indigenous peoples are facing contemporary challenges and contributing to sustainable development. It is hoped it will spur more attention and actions by decision makers and development actors at the national, regional and global levels on the centrality of securing the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples. <https://www.iwgia.org/images/documents/briefings/IPMG%20Global%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>
- Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) [report](#), “Compromised Space: Bullying and Blocking at the UN Human Rights Mechanisms”, details how China, Russia, Iran and other repressive regimes are manipulating the United Nations Human Rights System to block and attack those seeking to hold them accountable for gross human

rights violations perpetrated against minorities, indigenous communities and other unrepresented peoples <https://unpo.org/downloads/2558.pdf>

- [Highlights](https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/kyoto-2019/?utm_source=General+contacts&utm_campaign=9dd6149e26-GLF_Kyoto+media+advisory+13+May+2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_282b77c295-9dd6149e26-117832025) from the Global Landscapes Forum Kyoto 2019 [https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/kyoto-2019/?utm\\_source=General+contacts&utm\\_campaign=9dd6149e26-GLF\\_Kyoto+media+advisory+13+May+2019\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_282b77c295-9dd6149e26-117832025](https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/kyoto-2019/?utm_source=General+contacts&utm_campaign=9dd6149e26-GLF_Kyoto+media+advisory+13+May+2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_282b77c295-9dd6149e26-117832025)
- Inclusion, equality, and empowerment to achieve sustainable development: realities of indigenous peoples [https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/?utm\\_source=General+contacts&utm\\_campaign=9dd6149e26-GLF\\_Kyoto+media+advisory+13+May+2019\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_282b77c295-9dd6149e26-117832025](https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/?utm_source=General+contacts&utm_campaign=9dd6149e26-GLF_Kyoto+media+advisory+13+May+2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_282b77c295-9dd6149e26-117832025)
- Statements made at HLPF 2019 by Indigenous peoples: <https://www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/all-resources/ipmg-position-papers-and-publications/ipmg-statements-and-interventions>

#### Food and nutrition

- The beginning of the United Nations decade of family farming [document](#) ( 2019-2028) recognising the crucial role family farms play in achieving the SDG's and ensuring family farms are appropriately supported through resilience measures and investment. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4672en/ca4672en.pdf>
- Right to food and nutrition: This explores the impacts of digitalization and dematerialisation on our food systems it is very useful for considering future policies and understanding potential threats. <https://www.cidse.org/when-food-becomes-immaterial/>
- Canadian food [policies](#) that are very considered and lead the way <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html>
- Equality Bodies contributing to SDGs <http://equineteurope.org/2019/03/22/equality-bodies-contributing-to-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-goals/>

#### International reports regarding SDG implementation

- Denmark's challenges in achieving the SDG, a summary report: [http://www.globaltofokus.dk/images/NGO\\_SPOTLIGHT\\_report\\_on\\_Denmark\\_-\\_english\\_summary.pdf](http://www.globaltofokus.dk/images/NGO_SPOTLIGHT_report_on_Denmark_-_english_summary.pdf)
- Danish Institute for Human rights : Integrated [review](#) and reporting on SDG and human rights <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights-key-effective-efficient-accountable>
- The 100 [hotspots](#) snapshot of excluded and vulnerable population groups & SDGs in India [https://counterviewfiles.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/final\\_print\\_the-100-hotspots-06-r6.pdf](https://counterviewfiles.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/final_print_the-100-hotspots-06-r6.pdf)
- [Finland and the 2030 Agenda – a follow up report by CSOs](#)

#### Youth

- Action aid: shifting [power](#) to young people <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Shifting%20power%20to%20young%20people%20ActionAid%202019.pdf>
- The UK's global contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals : progress, gaps and recommendations, Executive summary (June 2019) Bond, UK June 2019 [info@bond.org.uk](mailto:info@bond.org.uk)

- Justice for Children: Justice for All :The Call to Action” CELCIS, University of Strathclyde, (June 2019) [www.InspiringChildrensFutures.org](http://www.InspiringChildrensFutures.org)
- Integrated Review and Reporting On SDGS and Human Rights, the Danish Institute For Human Rights, [info@humanrights.dk](mailto:info@humanrights.dk)
- Confronting Racism with Justice and Unity : a youth statement on race relations in Aotearoa” [www.raceunity.co.nz](http://www.raceunity.co.nz)

#### Pacific

- Pacific Islands (PIANGO) Case study of community led resilience in the Pacific Islands click [here](#)
- Na Yadrayadravaki-Case study of community led resilience during TC Gita”, PIANGO, [info@piango.org](mailto:info@piango.org)

#### Gender Equality

- Building a Gender Sensitive workplace-stop Gender Based Violence at Work “ Rwanda civil society platform [http://www.rcsprwanda.org/IMG/pdf/Gender-based\\_corruption\\_transparency\\_rwanda.pdf](http://www.rcsprwanda.org/IMG/pdf/Gender-based_corruption_transparency_rwanda.pdf)
- Gender Mainstreaming Platform, The European Institute for Gender Equality [eige.sec@eige.europa.eu](mailto:eige.sec@eige.europa.eu)
- Rwanda CSO SDG5 Forum” [info@rwandawomennetwork.org](mailto:info@rwandawomennetwork.org)

#### Climate Change

- [A feminist Interpretation of Just and Equitable Transitions in the Conext of Climate Change](#)

#### Justice and Peace

- The roadmap for Peaceful and Inclusiv societies:A call to action to change our world, July,2019, Pathfinders, <http://www.sdg16.plus>
- Justice for all: Highlights and Policy recommendations, The Taskforce on Justice, [www.justice.sdg16.plus](http://www.justice.sdg16.plus)

#### Education

- Bridge 47-Building Global Citizenship [www.bridge-47.org](http://www.bridge-47.org)
- [MAPTING – a free and participatory mobile app to discover and talk about the SDGs](#)
- [www.DA21.ifla.org](http://www.DA21.ifla.org) The Development and Access to Information (DA21) is a series of reports, led by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group, University of Washington (TASCHA), that monitor the progress countries are making towards fulfilling their commitment to promote meaningful access to information (A2I) as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Persons with disabilities

- [www.light-for-the.world.org](http://www.light-for-the.world.org)