

22nd June 2017

H.E Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava
President
United Nations Economic and Social Council
New York

Your Excellency,

We recognise and appreciate your leadership in setting in motion, early on, the preparations for the High Level Political Forum 2017. We also commend Member States who have volunteered to be reviewed and especially those that have conducted consultative and participatory processes at the national level for voluntary reviews.

As stated in para 74 (d & e) & para 84 of the 2030 Agenda, reviews for monitoring and follow up will be open, participatory, people centered and transparent with particular focus on the most vulnerable and those furthest behind. Resolution 67/290, which established the HLPF also states that major groups and other stakeholders shall be allowed to organize side events and roundtables at the HLPF. With this spirit in mind, many civil society groups, including major groups and other stakeholders, have proposed side events to contribute to the technical discussions at the HLPF. As per the advice from UN DESA, CSOs were asked to submit their proposals for the side events in by May 10, 2017. Unfortunately, to our disappointment, it is over a month and even after reminders to UN DESA, most of us are not aware if our proposals for side events have been accepted neither the rationale that is being put in place to review the proposals.

To ensure that the civil society voices heard at the HLPF are diverse, it is essential that non-state representatives are from different parts of the world. For participants from many countries, the decision to participate in the HLPF has to be made on whether they can meaningfully participate through fora like side events which also implicates a series of complex logistics, especially for those coming from developing countries. With just 3 weeks before the HLPF and many civil society organisations unsure on whether their side event will take place, we are facing a situation where important voices are likely to miss the opportunity to contribute effectively. This also defeats the very spirit of the monitoring and review process as being inclusive through drawing on the contributions of all stakeholders.

With this background, we request your kind intervention to ensure that;

1. Major Groups, other stakeholders, social movements and all non - state actors are informed with immediate effect if their side events have been selected and assigned a conference room.
2. A complete list of side events is published on the HLPF website, to ensure full transparency, including information on events convened at UNHQ or adjacent venues.
3. UN DESA urgently provides guidance and a supporting letter to participants who may need a visa to enter the United States.
4. A review of HLPF related processes is initiated after the HLPF, in order to ensure a more planned, timely and efficient management of HLPF 2018 by UN DESA. This review needs to seek feedback from Member States and non-state actors across the world.

We call upon Member States to review and strengthen the Secretariat support to the HLPF in order for the management and administrative arrangements to facilitate and not hinder the expert discussions, civic engagement and political deliberations of the Forum.

Civil Society remains committed to making the High Level Political Forum a success. Our participation in the monitoring and review of the sustainable development frameworks, is essential for its success. The promise to leave no one behind cannot be realised without the voices of the peoples, especially those living in poverty and the most vulnerable.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Cc: H.E Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, Economic and Social Affairs
H.E Peter Thomson, President of the 71st UN General Assembly
All Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

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132 NGOs / CSOs who have endorsed this letter:

Name	Organisation	Country
Shahzado Malik	Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation	Pakistan
Owounou Thomas Roger	Africa development Interchange Network (ADIN)	Cameroon
ADESHOLA AFARIOGUN	African Foundation for Environment and Development - AFED	Nigeria
Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje	Afrihealth Optonet Association [CSOs Network]/Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)	Nigeria
Flávia Pellegrino	Agenda Pública	Brazil
Md. Moniruzzaman	Aid Organization	Bangladesh
BARRY Aminata Alamir TOURE	Alliance contre la Pauvreté au Mali/Ensemble 2030/GCAP	Mali
Jennifer Redner	American Jewish World Service (AJWS)	USA
SOSSOUGA DOSSE	Amis des Etrangers au Togo(ADET)	Togo
Jyotsna Mohan	Asia Development Alliance (ADA)	India
Sawsan Hassan Elshowaya	Asmaa Society for Developemnt	Sudan
Nicolas Sautejeau	Asociación Chilena de ONG ACCION	Chile
Mange Ram Adhana	Association for promotion sustainable development	India
Erich Kofmel	Autistic Minority International	Switzerland
Sohanur Rahman	Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament	Bangladesh
shanta Laxmi Shrestha	Beyond Beijing Committee- Nepal	Nepal
Dr. Luise Steinwachs	Bread for the World Germany / Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany	Germany
Augustin Yves MBOCK KEKED	CADIRE CAMEROON ASSOCIATION	CAMEROON
Theresa Ajala	CAFSSO-WRAG for Development	Nigeria
Rochelle R. Dean	Candid Concepts Development	Bahamas

Barega Lombe Thadée	CARITAS CONGO,ASBL et CODD2030	Democratic Republic of Congo
Edward Lansana Massaquoi	Caritas Sierra Leone/Sierra Leone Coalition 2030	Sierra Leone
Vitor Mihessen	Casa Fluminense	Brasil
Md Shamsuddoha	Center for Participatory Research and Development-CPRD	Bangladesh
rajesh Mani	Child Voice	India
Lewis Emmerton	CHOICE for Youth & Sexuality	United Kingdom
Clinton Ezeigwe	Christian Fellowship and Care Foundation	Nigeria
Jeannette Abreu Acosta	CIPAF	Dominican Republic
Tola Winjobi	Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development	Nigeria
RIGOT	CNCD-11.11.11	Belgium
Daksha Vaja	Community Science Centre	India
Winifred Doherty	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	International
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Louisa Eikhomun Okoh	Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative	Nigeria
Luke Kapchanga	Emonyoye Yefwe International	Kenya
Sankar	EMPOWER INDIA	India
Alhassan Adam	End Water Poverty	Global
Jean-Philippe THOMAS	ENDA Tiers Monde	International (Senegal)
Patrizia Heidegger	European Environmental Bureau	Belgium
Ramisetty Murali	FRESHWATER ACTION NETWORK SOUTH ASIA (FANSA-Regional Secretariat)	India
Alessandra Nilo	GESTOS	Brazil
FRANK BOAKYE-DANKWA	GHANA ASSOC. OF PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT (GAPVOD)	GHANA
Eric Komla Amedjakou	Giving Life Nature Volunteer	Ghana
Ingo Ritz	Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	global
Allan Kalish	Global Distribution Advocates, Inc	U.S
Jack Kupferman	Gray Panthers	USA
Mekwuye Margaret Olabisi	Greenspring Development Initiative	Nigeria
Natasha Horsfield	Health Poverty Action	UK
Naveed Walter	Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP)	Pakistan
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Ovo Otariho	IDYL Initiative	Nigeria
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Iara Pietricovsky	Institute for Social and Economics Studies -INESC	Brazil
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Johannes Trimmel	International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness	International

Lyric Thompson	International Center for Research on Women	USA
Orsolya Bartha	International Disability Alliance	Global
Cristina Diez	International Movement ATD Fourth World	US
Hamong Santono	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)	Indonesia
Elsa Mutttahu	International Presentation Association	Global
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supprt	IWAC	USA
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RE Hogan	Quaker Earthcare Witness	USA
Milton Ponson	Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation	Aruba, Dutch Caribbean
Catherine Sealys	Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc	Saint Lucia
Anita Nayar and Katie Tobin	Regions Refocus	USA
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Adamu Musa-Zekeri	SDSN-Youth	Nigeria
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Richard Ssewakiryanga	Uganda National NGO Forum	Uganda
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Yvonne Shapeta	Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA)	Zimbabwe