

Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030

Milestones for a credible, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review mechanism for Agenda 2030

Friday, 22 January 2016

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120

31st of a monthly series

**Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community
and the International Movement ATD Fourth World**

08:30 **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**

08:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Cristina Diez
Main representative to the UN
International Movement ATD Fourth World

08:40 **Opening Remarks**

Mrs. Tatjana von Steiger Weber
Minister
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

Ms. Marion Barthelemy
Chief, Intergovernmental Support Branch
Division for Sustainable Development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

09:00 **Open Discussion**

Moderated by Mr. Serik Tokbolat
Representative to the UN
Bahá'í International Community

09:55 **Information Sharing**
All participants are encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities.

10:00 **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

31st Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030

Milestones for a credible, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review mechanism for Agenda 2030

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World
22 January 2016

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to the follow-up and review mechanism for Agenda 2030. The meeting coincided with the release of the Secretary-General's Report on the same theme. The following are highlights of the discussion:

Overview

- New culture of dialogue (breakfast meetings as a contribution to this culture)
- Key features of the UNDESA Report:
 - No one left behind – people at the center
 - Inclusive, bottom-up approaches
 - Paradigm shift in key UN – inter-government relations
 - Comprehensive chapter on follow-up built into 2030 Agenda from the onset
 - Multilateral approach
 - Necessitates flow of dialogue at all levels (regional, national, global)
 - Clear mandate to move forward rather than fall into cycles

UNDESA Report: Four Outstanding Points

- HLPF at center
 - Holistic view for implementation; identify areas that need support; provide political guidance to accelerate progress and mobilize implementation; one of few platforms to provide a long-term view; should give impetus for inclusive reviews beyond UN walls
- Coherent System
 - Every part of the UN system should be interrelated; General Assembly should: play a role by developing high-level guidance on issues, address specific concerns, derive inspiration from HLPF; HLPF and ECOSOC should share tasks; ECOSOC could refocus its work more on the UN system and coordinate its subsidiary machinery; there should be a review to determine implementation and effective contributions to HLPF
- Broadening the space
 - Reviews go beyond UN system; outcomes of external reviews (e.g. African Union) fit into UN in some aggregate form; learn how to open doors for global reviews
- Making the center (HLPF) work
 - Thematic reviews; inter-governmental bodies should give effective reviews and HLPF should digest input; the system should be allowed to mature and evolve before it is locked into specific guidelines; need to show that the UN can stand up to its ambitious goals

¹Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Belgium, Benin, Canada, Ecuador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe. Representatives from UN: International Labour Organization, Office of the Special Representative of the World Bank Group to the UN, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund. Non-governmental organizations: Bahá'í International Community, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Edmund Rice International, Global Policy Forum, International Movement ATD Fourth World, OMI/VIVAT International, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Salesians of Don Bosco, Save the Children, UNANIMA, UNICEF, United Methodist Church and Society, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations.

Challenges

- Is the HPLF equipped to achieve its goals?
- Difficulty of balancing existing structures with new goals
- Aligning UN cycles with the HLPF 4-year cycle to enhance policy coherence
- Ensuring transparency, openness, and inclusivity
 - Inclusivity specifically: how to ensure the right actors are at the table
 - Civil society's presence is needed
 - All stakeholders (especially those for whom decisions are being made) should be involved
- Avoiding duplication of efforts; moving forward from what's already been achieved while implementing new goals and approaches
 - Simplicity
 - Avoid excessive processes
 - Too many processes limit communication between developed and developing countries
- How to make HLPF interesting and engaging
 - Should be attractive to ministers or they won't come
 - Suggestion to learn from WEF model (especially re: generating buzz and interest)
 - WEF model may not work for UN since you buy your seat. Money key factor
- How to promote more dialogue
 - Informal spaces like this one welcome in the absence of more formal spaces

Implementation

- We have the intergovernmental architecture in place to review implementation. What we need is to work differently and build linkages. The Secretariat is here to support this and must work in a coherent and integrated fashion
- Approach must be coherent and consistent
 - Commissions can lead by example
- Agenda is about human rights: human-rights approach should pervade all efforts
- National reviews should not be presented as "final products" to HLPF; dialogue is crucial
- National data is critical
 - Parallel discussion on capacity-building for gathering national data
 - Must learn to engage national statistical institutions with non-state bodies as well

Suggestions

- Global goals process learned a lot from the experience with MDGs. During the monitoring-review phase we should also learn from MDG phase
 - Improve robustness of evidence, make sure they have teeth
- Focus and shift around new agenda to ensure it's at the heart of action taken
- Avoid conversation turning into a UN bubble
 - Find a way to attract the most innovative, active people to the table
- GSDR needs to be integrated into the discussion on the HLPF
- Break down silos not only within the UN, but also between the UN and the world
- Allow faith-based bodies to play a key role in addressing some of the obstacles that might prevent the UN from achieving 2030 Agenda goals (factors like extremism, violence)
 - Faith-based bodies should use evidence-based reporting. How?