

Global Forum HLPF Debriefing Session

Key messages and resources

Date: 6 September 2023

Speakers:

- Hannah Janetschek, The German Council for Sustainable Development
- Carlos Miranda-Rodríguez, FUDESO (Chile)
- Reynald Maeda, United Nations Association of Tanzania
- Eeva Furman, Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development

The session was moderated by Lina Kukulskyte, The Partnering Initiative (secretariat)

Key messages from the speakers about the HLPF:

- **Hybrid Event Format:** The sessions varied in their formats – some hybrid, others only in person or online. Compared to the session online during the pandemic, in-person participation facilitated more interaction among attendees. However, the fact that some sessions were in person only limited participation and involvement from some participants, especially from the Global South who were unable to travel to New York.
- **Urgency in Implementing SDGs:** There is a sense of urgency to accelerate progress towards the SDGs as there are limited years left until the 2030 deadline. Concerns were raised about the slow progress in achieving the SDGs globally. There is a lack of decisive action to achieve them.
- **Multisectoral and Integrated Implementation:** Emphasis was placed on involving all sectors of society and levels of government in an integrated and coordinated manner to implement the SDGs.
- **Importance of Civil Society:** Participation of civil society is crucial, and unity within civil society is needed to drive SDG progress.
- **Localization:** There is a growing focus on localization, bringing the SDGs to the community and local government levels. A recent VLR conducted in Tanzania received substantial interest.
- **Setbacks:** Various global and local events have hindered the progress in achieving the 2030 agenda. There were contested discussions about the Russian war in Ukraine and its impact globally.
- **Difficulty in Measuring Commitment:** Measuring commitment to the SDGs is challenging due to the absence of universal metrics and difficulties in making comparisons across countries.
- **Transformational Change:** Discussions about transformational change were new and enlightening, with a focus on changing systems to achieve the SDGs.
- **Inclusivity:** More space this year was given to marginalized communities, such as indigenous people, youth, and people with disabilities.
- **Regional Reporting:** The European Union conducted its own Voluntary Review, leading to discussions about whether this exercise should be replicated in other regions, especially Africa but also Latin America and Asia.
- **Financing for SDGs:** Many stakeholders expressed concerns about the lack of financing for the SDGs and the need to reform multilateral systems for financing.

- **Beyond GDP:** Besides reforming the financial system there was also a focus on moving beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a sole measurement of progress.

Overall, the presentations highlighted the challenges and opportunities in advancing the SDGs and the importance of collaboration at the local, national, and global levels.

Attendees also noted that The Global Forum is not well-known, but there is a lot of potential for the Global Forum and the important role of advisory bodies.

There was also an input on key events upcoming:

- The SDGs Summit 2023: **What** are the key topics and the crucial issues that we need to tackle in the coming years?
- The Summit of the Future 2024: **How** do we actually achieve transformational change?

Resources shared by the speakers and attendees that could be of interest to the Global Forum community:

- [The CEPEI Flagship Report](#)
- [The Deep Dive Report on National Sustainability Forums in Chile 2022](#)
- Halfway through report from the UN on the 2030 Agenda: [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023](#)
- Transformation in all its facets with a framework is tackled in the latest GSDR:
 - Advance [unedited version](#)
 - And the final version - [The Global Sustainable Development Report 2023](#)
- [European Union Voluntary Review](#)
- [Affordable renewable energy and energy efficiency examples of coastal Member States and SIDS from the experiences of Belize and the Dominican Republic](#)
- [Very inspiring report from the advisory panel from Antonio Guterres](#)
- IISD and IGES co-hosted an HLPF side event on long term impacts of SDG localization and VLR reporting: [summary](#) and [recording](#)
- [Inclusive Partnerships for a Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: Leaving No One Behind in the Voluntary National Reviews](#) (HLPF 2023 Side Event)
- SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability [Platform](#) and [registration](#) for SDG actions
 - We have already registered the [Global Forum](#) on this platform and invite all members to submit their own initiatives