



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Media Advisory
3 July 2018

Record number of countries, private and public-sector leaders to review progress on sustainable development

9-18 July, UN Headquarters, New York

Thousands of high-level representatives from governments, civil society and the private sector will gather at the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) this month to take stock of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discuss successes, challenges and lessons learnt on the road to a fairer, more peaceful and prosperous world on a healthy planet by 2030.

Forty-seven countries will submit their Voluntary National Review (VNRs) - an important, evidence-based platform to highlight national implementation. Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the number of countries presenting VNRs has more than doubled from 22 in 2016. With this year's Forum, more than 120 countries would have submitted their reviews, showing commitment to tackle some of the biggest challenges of our time. The Forum also brings together leaders from all sectors of society, including the business community and civil society.

This year's Forum will review in depth six out of the 17 SDGs under the theme, "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies." The set of goals to be reviewed include:

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (reviewed yearly)



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PRESS BRIEFING

On the opening day of the Forum, Elliot Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, will brief the media on the expected outcomes of the Forum.

- WHO** Mr. Elliot Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist
- WHAT** Guest at the UN Secretary-General's Spokesman's Noon Briefing
- WHERE** S-237, UN Headquarters, New York or live through <http://webtv.un.org>
- WHEN** Monday, 9 July 2017, 12:30 p.m. EST

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (11 July)

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), a partnership between several UN entities, was created in 2012 in the run-up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). With commitments from over 300 universities from around the world, HESI accounted for more than one-third of all the voluntary commitments that were launched at Rio+20. The initiative provides higher education institutions with a unique interface between higher education, science, and policy-making. More information: <https://www.sdgbusinessforum.org/>

SDG Media Zone (16 to 17 July)

The SDG Media Zone at HLPF will feature a diversity of speakers, including business, civil society and United Nations leaders and influencers, who will discuss a range of topics, including sustainable fashion, biodiversity, data and technology, and clean energy. More information: <http://www.un.org/sdgmediazone/>

Ministerial Segment of HLPF (16-18 July)

More than 80 Ministers are expected to attend the three-day Ministerial Segment, including to present their VNRs. The 47 countries presenting VNRs are Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada,



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Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, and Viet Nam. More information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

Local and Regional Governments' Forum (16 July)

At the first-ever Local and Regional Governments' Forum, Mayors from the world's major cities will come together to discuss the importance of localizing the 2030 Agenda. The forum is co-organized by the United Nations and its partners, including Local2030. More information: <https://www.global-taskforce.org/high-level-political-forum>

SDG Business Forum (18 July)

Co-hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UN DESA and the UN Global Compact, and organized in collaboration with the Global Business Alliance (GBA) for 2030, the third SDG Business Forum will bring together leaders from businesses, governments, UN agencies, key international organizations, and civil society to discuss the private sector's role in delivering the 2030 Agenda. More information: <https://www.sdgbusinessforum.org/>

For interview opportunities and more information, please contact the following people.

Media contacts

UN Department of Public Information

Francyne Harrigan, T: +1 (917) 367-5414 | E: harriganf@un.org

Dan Shepard, T: +1 (212) 963 9495 | E: shepard@un.org

Devi Palanivelu, T: +1 (212) 963-1104 | E: palanivelu@un.org

Paul Simon, T: +1(917)367-5027 | E: simonp@un.org