







2018 HLPF Guide (External)

July 9-18, 2018 | New York City | <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

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What is the High-Level Political Forum?

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the annual global moment for reviewing and recognizing SDG progress. It is an opportunity for governments, business, and civil society leaders to come together and share what's working and lessons learned, and takes place every summer at the UN Headquarters in New York, with governments expected to attend at the Ministerial level.

The HLPF is tasked with providing political leadership, guidance, and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda; keep track of progress; spur coherent policies informed by evidence, science, and country experiences; and address new and emerging issues. This year's theme is "transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies."

Every four years, including 2019, each country is represented at the HLPF by its Head of State or Government.

Stakeholder participation

The HLPF is the most inclusive and participatory forum at the UN. All people can participate in the HLPF through the [major groups and other stakeholders](#) format. Stakeholders are also invited to organize [side events](#) (deadline April 30), and [register multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments](#) in support of the SDGs.

Inputs

The UN Secretary-General's (SG) annual ["Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals"](#) report coordinates inputs to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) from international and regional organizations, national actors, civil society, and academia. The information is based on data on selected indicators of the IAEG global indicator framework from the database managed by the UN Stats Division (which sits inside DESA). The [advance version of the 2018 report](#) was released in May 2018. The related "Sustainable Development Goals Report," which is expected late June 2018, provides further analyses of selected indicators for a wider audience, using charts and infographics to highlight some critical gaps and challenges.

The [SDG Indicators Global Database](#) provides access to country level data and global and regional aggregates compiled through the UN System and other international organizations.

Another important piece is the [Global Sustainable Development Report](#) (GSDR), which is focused on the "science-policy interface", and seeks to provide "a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development." The GSDR is drafted by an independent group of scientists. The next GSDR will be published in 2019, and will be the first in a quadrennial series to inform the Leaders' level HLPF under the auspices of the GA.

Inputs from other intergovernmental bodies and forums, the major groups and other stakeholders, and partnerships can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/>.

A series of Expert Group Meetings on the SDGs for in-depth review will also take place in the leadup to the HLPF (see more below under program of events).

Outcomes

The HLPF will have three main outcomes: (1) a negotiated “Ministerial Declaration” which provides political guidance; (2) a “President’s Summary” which is a more detailed record of the sessions; and (3) a standard procedural report.

Voluntary National Reviews

As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, a central part of the HLPF are Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which countries volunteer ahead of the HLPF to prepare. These reports are SDG progress reports, cataloguing countries' experiences implementing the SDGs, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Member States are encouraged to involve stakeholders in their VNRs, but whether and how this happens will vary country to country. Those who have volunteered present their reports during the Ministerial segment (July 16-18) of the HLPF. Civil society organizations have encouraged governments to report 2-3 times throughout the SDG timeline.

To date, more than one third of UN Member States (64 countries) have conducted VNRs. This July, more countries than ever – 47 – will present their VNRs at the HLPF: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Congo, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, UAE, Uruguay, and Viet Nam.

DESA has launched an [online platform](#) for the VNRs. Countries participating in 2018 were expected to submit Main Messages by May 18, and reports by June 17. Both Main Messages and VNRs can be found on the online platform.

The SG's office provides voluntary guidelines for preparing VNRs, last revised in December 2017 and available here:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated_Voluntary_Guidelines.pdf

DESA, the body charged with promoting and coordinating implementation of the 2030 Agenda, helps countries with SDG reporting by sharing synthesis reports of past VNRs, and held three Global Prep workshops for countries submitting reviews in 2018. Earlier this year, DESA issued a practical handbook on preparing, presenting, and following up on VNRs, available here:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17354VNR_handbook_2018.pdf

Thematic review of SDGs

The 2018 HLPF will review 5 SDGs in-depth (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15) as well as SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) that will be reviewed each year. Different UN system entities will co-lead preparations on these SDGs, including thematic background papers. Member States may also be included on corresponding thematic panels to highlight their leadership in certain areas.

SDGs under thematic review
6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
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

Official program of events during the HLPF













DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEG					
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
Week 1, 9-13 July 2018					
	Monday, 9 July (CR 4)	Tuesday, 10 July (CR 4)	Wednesday, 11 July (CR 4)	Thursday, 12 July (CR 4)	Fr
	<p>9 – 10 AM Opening</p> <p>Scene setting How far have we come on the SDGs? Introduction of SG's SDGs progress report</p> <p>10 AM – 1 PM Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions</p>	<p>Review of SDGs implementation</p> <p>9 – 11 AM SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p> <p>11 AM – 1 PM SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>Review of SDGs implementation</p> <p>9 – 11 AM SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <p>11 AM – 1 PM SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>Review of SDGs implementation</p> <p>9 – 11 AM SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>11 AM – 1 PM Building on synergies and addressing trade offs</p>	<p>Implement SDG 17 –</p> <p>Investing</p>
	<p>9 AM – 1 PM</p>				Transformative Perspective
	<p>3 – 6 PM</p>	<p>Thematic review</p> <p>3 PM-4:30 PM Advancing science, technology and innovation for SDGs</p> <p>4:30 PM-6 PM What scientists tell policy makers: Science policy interface and emerging issues</p>	<p>Thematic review</p> <p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>Stakeholders' perspectives</p>	<p>Thematic review</p> <p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>SIDS perspective</p>	Learn

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT / MINISTERIAL MEETING OF HLPF							HIGH
ECOSOC high-level segment, including ministerial meetings of the HLPF (16-19 July 2018)							
	Monday, 16 July	Tuesday, 17 July		Wednesday, 18 July			
	Parallel meetings					P	
9 AM – 2 PM <u>OR</u> 10 AM – 1 PM	(CR 4) 9 – 10 AM Opening of H.L.S./ Ministerial segment Voluntary national reviews 10 AM – 2 PM	(CR 4) 9 AM – 2 PM Voluntary national reviews		(TR1) 10 AM – 1 PM Voluntary national reviews	(CR 4) 9 AM – 2 PM Voluntary national reviews	(ECO) 10 AM – 11 AM High-level dialogue w/ international fin and trade insti	
Parallel meetings							P
3-6 PM <u>OR</u> 3:30 – 6.30 PM	(CR 4) 3:30 – 6:30 PM Voluntary national reviews	(TR1) 3 – 6 PM Introduction of SG report on theme of ECOSOC 2018 session Introduction of CDP report General debate	(CR 4) 3:30 – 6:30 PM Voluntary national reviews	(TR1) 3 – 6 PM General debate (continuation)	(CR 4) 3:30 – 4:45 PM Voluntary national reviews	(ECO) 3 – 5:30 PM Thematic discuss the main theme ECOSOC 2018	
					(TR1) 5 – 6:30 PM Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and the draft report of HLPF Conclusion of the HLPF	Adoption Concludes	

Special events during the HLPF

Special Events	
9-13 July	 SDGs LEARNING
11 July	 HESI
13 July	 PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE
16 July	 Local and Regional Governments' Forum
17 July	 SDG BUSINESS FORUM
18 July	 Insights from Chief Sustainability Officers & sustainability champions

Preparatory events for the HLPF

Regional Preparatory Meetings	Preparatory Events
 ECE: 1-2 March, Geneva	25-26 Jan, New York. Expert Group Meeting on Advancing the 2030 Agenda: Interlinkages and Common Themes at the HLPF 2018
 ESCAP: 28-30 March, Bangkok	 11 Feb, One UN Room, KLCC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Role of Cities in the 2018 High-Level Political Forum: Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies
 ECLAC: 18-20 April, Santiago	 21-23 Feb, Bangkok. Global SDG7 Conference
 ESCWA: 24-26 April, Lebanon	 2 May, New York. Member State Workshop on the UN-Water Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018
 ECA: 2-4 May, Dakar	 3-4 May, Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 12
Workshops	 14-15 May, Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 15
4 Dec, Geneva. Workshop for the 2018 VNRs at the HLPF	 12 June, Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 17
	 20-22 June, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. High Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028