HLPF Side Event

TOPIC: VNR engagement, tackling inequality and leaving no one behind

TITLE: Inclusive Partnerships for a Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: Leaving No One Behind in the Voluntary National Reviews

DATE & TIME: Tuesday 18th July, 18:30 to 20:00 EDT

LOCATION: Conference Room 7


Lead Applicant: Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

Government co-sponsors: Ireland, Zambia, Switzerland, Chile, Mongolia


Objectives of event:

This session will explore ways to ensure VNR processes at country level truly enable and strengthen inclusive partnerships for sustainable development.

The session will include case studies of ‘whole of society’ engagement in the VNR process from key VNR countries including: Ireland, Zambia, Mongolia and Chile as well as facilitating a space for dialogue between governments and CSOs.

The Voluntary National Reviews provide a crucial opportunity to evaluate and assess progress in the delivery of the SDGs and the wider 2030 Agenda. However the COVID-19 pandemic has led to massive disruption, impacting on health, education, gender equality and access to finance, leading to significant widening of pre-existing gaps of inequality, and the creation of new social, cultural, economic and political asymmetries.

There will be insights from governments and also civil society coalitions active on developing civil society spotlight reports to shine a light on diverse views on the critical steps needed for transformative change in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Outline Agenda:

1. Welcome from facilitator
Mrs. Josefina Villegas Caputti, Policy and Membership Coordinator, CPDE (5 min)

2. Opening panel (40 mins)
Moderator: Mr. Oli Henman, A4SD
Opening Remarks on inclusive VNRs: Mr Markus Reubi, Federal Delegate for the 2030 Agenda, Government of Switzerland

Government representatives from key VNR countries’ perspectives on inclusive VNRs:
   o Zambia: Mr. Lee Chileshe, Assistant Director in the Ministry of Finance and National Planning Division, Government of Zambia.
   o Mongolia: Mr. Mungunskh Batchuluun, Head of the Social Development Policy Division of the Integrated Development Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia.
   o Ireland: Mr. Marc Ó Cathasaigh, Deputy or Assembly Delegate for the Parliament of Ireland.
   o Chile, TBC

Key questions for government representatives, 5 mins each to respond to the following two rounds of questions:

   ● How has the inclusion of CSOs improved the VNR process in your case?
   ● What are the main successes and lessons learned for the ongoing participation of civil society in 2030 Agenda implementation and monitoring?

3. Second panel (40 mins)
Moderator: Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga, Co-Chair, CPDE

4 national CSO coalitions share experience of VNR engagement:
   ● Zambia: Ms. Leah Mitaba, Zambia Council for Social Development.
   ● Ireland: Ms. Meaghan Carmody, Coalition 2030
   ● Mongolia: Ms. Indra Tumurbaatar, Center for Human Rights and Development
   ● Chile: Mr. Carlos Miranda Rodriguez, Fundación para el Desarrollo Social and Acción Chile

Key questions for CSO representatives, 5 mins each to respond to the following two rounds of questions:

   ● How were you able to connect across different stakeholders to shape the VNR in your country?
   ● In sight of the upcoming SDG Summit, what are 1 or 2 concrete proposals for improving inclusive partnerships for SDG implementation and VNR reporting processes?
- How do you intend to maintain the momentum for delivery of the 2030 Agenda at national and subnational levels?

4. Closing remarks from organizers (5 minutes)