



*Future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us,
long before it happens.*

RAINER MARIA RILKE

Calling for Action

Nearly sixty stakeholders and practitioners from more than thirty nations, all engaged in our mutual responsibility to implement the 2030 Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals, met as 'Open SDGclub.Berlin' in Berlin, May 7–9, 2019, invited by the German Council for Sustainable Development.

In our personal capacity we reiterate the importance of the 2030 Agenda document which now needs concrete multi-lateral action. As practitioners in implementing this agenda we are part of national councils for sustainable development and of similar stakeholder bodies and initiatives, of civil society organisations, business, academia, local and regional governments and parliaments, all actively engaged in realizing the Agenda 2030 goals and principles. We reiterate the sense of urgency that brought Heads of State to agree unanimously to the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Implementation has not yet made the difference that is needed.

I – We call for all Heads of State to raise the level of awareness of and commitment to implementing and following up the 2030 Agenda.

1. We encourage Heads of State to form alliances that aspire to achieve the 2030 Agenda including all the Sustainable Development Goals earlier than 2030. We all have to keep in mind that our generation is the first on earth that has the means to finally end hunger, inequalities that lead to deprivation, and to prevent the planet's life from being burnt to dust and forced to disappear.
2. We remind Heads of State that the 2030 Agenda is a huge political asset that must never be underestimated. This asset connects with people's belief and hopes and is a future-bound bridge connecting nations, people, local communities and multilateralism. Inaction will be irreparable and cause social unrest. Bold actions for fully financed implementation are needed.
3. The 2030 Agenda is a done deal. Delivery of solutions is overdue. Delivery must be made the key issue for the next years. This will need new action and investments that we have not seen so far. Aligning all political processes and economic development in particular is key for implementing the 2030 Agenda, as is the empowerment of local and regional action, partnerships and networking.

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II – We call for all parties to use the UN HLPF as the one relevant global mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

1. As the global focal point monitoring progress around the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the UN HLPF is accepted by nearly all non-state and state actors. This is a valuable achievement. However, its political visibility must be increased, as a forum for innovating and encouraging bold action.
2. The HLPF must be used to take bold decisions on how to implement the 2030 Agenda. Not utilizing this potential will affect in a negative way our universal future when trying to, inter alia: broker responsible, innovative and sustainable finance action; promote circular economy and resource efficiency; linking action taken by G7/8 and G20 to the HLPF processes; using HLPF to identify gaps and emerging issues; promoting partnerships to implement the SDGs based on equal influence by civil society, the private sector and the authorities.
3. The HLPF must be given a mandate to function within the UN decision-making system; it must be provided with ample financial resources, its secretariat strengthened, and more time provided for its deliberations. We need HLPF to improve and expand mutual learning and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, also in the light of emerging issues that will add challenges to the 2030 Agenda. The digitalization and the way we are dealing with big data is one such issue; a new and growing dimension of inequality is another; a third is the increasing depletion of natural goods and life-support systems, causing and increasing conflicts that drive people into flight and migration. Against this background, HLPF must be able to verify the progress achieved. The regional performance of UN bodies has to be reformed in a way that the HLPF's functionality can be multiplied, according to regional and subnational demands.

III – We encourage all stakeholders to advance the multi-stakeholder and multi-level approaches to the 2030 Agenda, respecting the needs of future generations.

1. For progress to happen, a safe operating space for civil society, non-state stakeholders and community-based organisations is needed. Consistent with the 2030 Agenda's whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, we appeal to states to be more open and to actively involve stakeholders on national and subnational levels. Additional efforts must be made to enhance cooperation and collaboration.
2. The Open SDGclub.Berlin underscores the value of stakeholder partnerships in response to the implementation challenge of the 2030 Agenda. All stakeholders need a safe maneuvering space, with a lasting structure, access to information, and transparent processes. Their efforts must be adequately resourced. Mutual and transnational peer learning is a crucial resource for implementing our universal Agenda. Peer reviewing exercises should be used more frequently.
3. A global platform strengthening national SDG-Councils and similar multi-stakeholder bodies and entities is needed as a hub for stakeholder peer learning from all regions. This would add value to the HLPF.

Approved by the participants of the Open SDGclub.Berlin, May 7–9, 2019

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