



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
Tuesday, 9 July – Thursday, 18 July 2019

### SAVE THE DATE

**The High-level Political Forum 2019\***  
**(Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019)**

**Global Civil Network, Foru, advocates for more support for NGOs worldwide and for full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)\* by UN Member States at High Level Political Forum (HLPF), New York 2019**



*New-York – July 10, 2019 –* **Forus**, a global civil society network whose members include 69 national NGO platforms and 7 regional coalitions, will participate in a number of key side-events during the UN HLPF in New York in July 2019, along with relevant governments, philanthropic organizations, international institutions and other NGOs, with the aim of mobilizing greater support and resources for NGOs worldwide to monitor and implement the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *“Forus has attended the HLPF each year since it was established, and we see it as a key opportunity for networking and for directly influencing governments where implementing the SDGs at country level is concerned”* says Iara Pietricovsky, current Chair of Forus.

## Assessing the effectiveness of the HLPF - first cycle

2019 is a significant year because the UN Member States will officially review the overall effectiveness of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is the United Nations (UN) central platform for follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The establishment of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “*The Future We Want*”. The HLPF review will provide an opportunity for UN members to evaluate the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF during its first four-year cycle.

## Greater involvement of NGOs and other actors in implementing the SDGs

As a global civil society network whose members are very involved in monitoring and implementing the SDGs, Forus is organizing several key events taking place on the sidelines of the HLPF. **On July 11<sup>th</sup>** Forus will be involved in [a joint side event](#) with other CSO networks which will present **an [assessment of the first four-year cycle of the HLPF and will target key recommendations at the UN Member States concerning the HLPF Review](#)**. The aim of these recommendations is to ensure the more effective implementation of the SDGs\* by all UN Member States, including a much greater involvement of NGOs and other actors in these activities.

The “[Renewing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- Civil Society perspectives on Principles for a successful HLPF Review](#)” event will take place in Conference room 1 at the **UN Headquarters from 1:15-2:45pm on Thursday July 11th.**

## Protecting fundamental freedoms, access to justice and participatory decision-making

**On July 12<sup>th</sup>** Forus will be part of [another joint side event](#) which launches a new report on [Goal 16 of the SDGs](#). Goal 16 aspires to protect fundamental freedoms, access to justice, a peaceful society, reduced corruption and bribery, as well as increased transparency and participatory decision-making. Forus members from across the world have developed national case studies examining the extent to which the governments of their countries have implemented this goal. **The report being launched by Forus and its partners highlights the critically important role that civil society can and should play in ensuring the full implementation of Goal 16 at a national level.** It also makes a series of recommendations about how governments everywhere can empower civil society to better fulfil this role.

The “[Empowering Civil Society for Reporting and Action on SDG 16](#)” event will take place in **the South Korean Embassy (460 Park Ave 9th Fl, New York, NY 10022, USA) from 9:30am until 12:30pm on Friday July 12th.**

## Exchanging experiences between NGOs and learning from one another

During the weekend of **July 13-14<sup>th</sup>**, Forus will meet with NGOs and other civil society organizations for a [“Civil Society Weekend”](#) in the [UN Church Centre close to the UN Headquarters](#). This civil society weekend brings together civil society organizations from different regions of the world to exchange experiences of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a national level and to learn from each other. Forus will use the opportunity of this important gathering of international civil society to present the key findings of its recently commissioned research studies into new [funding approaches for civil society](#) and into [the capacity development of CSOs linked to SDG implementation](#).

## Partnerships between governments, private sector, academia & civil society to implement the SDGs

**On July 15<sup>th</sup>** Forus and other civil society partners will jointly organize a side event on Goal 17 of the SDGs, which concerns developing a global partnership of governments, private sector, academia and civil society to achieve the ambitious goals of the SDGs. The title of the event is [“Unlocking the Promise of Goal 17 to increase the effectiveness of civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda”](#) and will include speakers from philanthropic organizations such as the Foundation Ford, as well as representatives from the European Commission, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Switzerland. Speakers will discuss the potential of Sustainable Development Goal 17 to support stronger partnerships to create an enabling environment for a “whole-of-society” approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. The event will examine how governments and other partners can support diverse stakeholders, and civil society in particular, to become more effective participants in 2030 Agenda implementation, including in follow-up and review processes.

[“The Power of Partnership- Unlocking the promise of partnership to increase the strength of civil society in advancing the 2030 Agenda”](#) event will take place at **the Ford Foundation Headquarters (320 E 43rd St, New York, NY 10017) on Monday July 15th, 2019, 9:00-11:00 (Breakfast and registration 8:30 am) Berta Caceres Room.**

## Leaving No One Behind

Forus will be involved in another side event **on July 17<sup>th</sup>** called [“Inclusive Voluntary National Reviews\\*: Promoting multi-stakeholder participation on the SDGs”](#). The event will include the governments of Ghana, Timor Leste, Mongolia, and El Salvador and will aim to ensure that the promise of the SDGs to “Leave No One Behind” is delivered upon. It will focus on challenges and opportunities linked to the engagement of civil society with governments. It will be an opportunity for CSOs and government representatives present to share their experiences and learn about best practices from other regions.

The [“Building Inclusive Voluntary National Reviews- Promoting multi-stakeholder participation on the SDGs”](#) event will take place at **the Ford Foundation Headquarters (320 E 43rd St, New York, NY 10017) from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday July 17th.**

## For further information, please contact:

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### **About Forus**

Forus, previously known as the International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP/FIP), is a member-led network of 69 National NGO Platforms and 7 Regional Coalitions from all continents representing over 22,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues.

<http://forus-international.org>

### **About the HLPF**

*\*The 2019 **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** will be taking place on 9 – 18 July. This year, SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 are under review; and 47 countries will submit their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We are now four years into the 2030 Agenda, but we know that governments reporting at the VNRs have provided very mixed pictures of progress. We are also aware that civil society involvement has also been patchy so far, despite an official commitment to engaging them fully in the review of progress. Forus will be organizing several events to strengthen these areas well as promoting [a review of HLPF and its engagement mechanisms](#).*

### **About the 2030 Agenda**

*\* **2030 Agenda** - This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets of this new universal Agenda seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>*

*\* **SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals** - The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>*

*\* **VNRs, Voluntary National Reviews** - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". The voluntary national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. The national reviews aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>*