



**Informal consultation convened by the Chair of the Third Committee of the General Assembly with civil society
Monday, 3 February 2020
3 – 4:30 PM, Conference Room 3**

Concept note

1. Background

The Sustainable Development Goals recognize multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the goals and further seeks to encourage and promote partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of all stakeholders.

The active engagement of civil society partners in UN human rights spaces, as well as directly with Member States, UN officials and experts, can constitute valuable contributions to the work of the Committee, through analysis and recommendations based on their thematic and country-focused expertise and on-the-ground experience.

Despite the fact that the issues addressed by the Third Committee are at the heart of the concerns and efforts of many civil society players, there has been no specific opportunity for the Committee as a whole to exchange views with civil society representatives.

On several occasions in recent years, Chairs of the Third Committee have spoken of the connection between the work of the Committee and Agenda 2030 objectives. In 2016, the then Chair of the Third Committee and the President of the General Assembly «agreed that ways should be explored on how to align the agenda of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda».¹ The role of civil society in the development of Agenda 2030 is widely acknowledged and the intensive global engagement of civil society in the implementation of the policy is explicitly referenced in Agenda 2030.²

The current President of the General Assembly states in his Roadmap that he will actively seek opportunities for stakeholder engagements, in particular with the civil society, academia and other key stakeholders on issues relating to the priorities of the seventy-fourth session of UNGA and the overall implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will provide an opportunity for an exchange on this topic between the members of the Third Committee and civil society.

¹ www.un.org/pga/71/2016/09/15/meeting-with-chair-of-third-committee/

² Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, paragraph 39.

2. Objective

The event shall provide an opportunity for Member States and civil society to share thoughts on the outcomes of the 74th session of the Third Committee as well as insights into a specific issue of concern: the link between the Agenda 2030 and the work of the Third Committee.

3. Format

The **proposed format** is to hold a panel followed by interventions from the floor:

1. The Chair of the Third Committee, H.E. Ambassador Christian Braun, introduces and moderates the discussion and presents a brief summary of the work of the recent Third Committee session.
2. As keynote speaker, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, will present some thoughts and reflections on the subject at hand, including on the potential of further engaging with civil society in this context.
3. Mr. Andrew Smith, Head of UN Advocacy, Article 19, will provide a brief assessment of the Third Committee session.
4. Ms. Bani Dugal, Principal Representative, Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office, will intervene on the link between the Agenda 2030 and the work of the Third Committee.

The Chair of the Third Committee will then take two rounds of interventions from the floor:

1. The floor will then be opened for a first round of general interventions from Member States and civil society;

Where has the Third Committee made progress and what opportunities are there to build on in the future? Are there additional issues that the Third Committee should focus its attention on? What could be done differently in order to strengthen the outcome of the Third Committee's work?

2. During the second round, interventions should very specifically relate to the question of Agenda 2030 and the Third Committee;

In what ways has the Third Committee positively contributed to the implementation of Agenda 2030? How could the work of the Third Committee better support the implementation of Agenda 2030?

In order to promote an interactive discussion, interventions by Member States and civil society speakers will be interspersed. Interventions from the floor should be brief and not exceed 3 minutes.

4. Participants

Participants in the consultation will be primarily delegates from Member States as well as civil society representatives with ECOSOC accredited status, with particular encouragement to those who engage actively with the Third Committee.

5. Time and venue

The consultation is to be held on 3 February 2020 from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. in Conference Room 3, UN headquarters in New York.