

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

21 April 2016

Action at all levels – National Implementation

This High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will seek to answer the questions of “how” all key actors, led by national governments, can best work together to achieve the SDGs – “who” are the primary actors and “what” governments are doing to begin implementation.

Meeting objectives

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate action by all stakeholders at all levels.

Format

This session will run for a full day in traditional plenary meeting style. A speakers list will be opened in advance for participants to register to deliver three minute statements.

Focus

The 2030 Agenda is the defining development agreement of our time. Anchored by the 17 SDGs, it is universal, inclusive and integrated. Agenda 2030 commits all actors, led by governments, to work together to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development and to protect the environment. It is the world’s best hope to ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised, those living in poverty, women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities are not left behind.

Member States are at the centre of creating a better world, as aspired to in the SDGs. All are committed to deliver ambitious national responses to successfully implement this agenda, building on a firm foundation, including national development and sustainable development strategies. Yet there is much more to do.

To meet the challenge laid down by the 2030 Agenda requires a new way of doing business. This means inclusive, coherent, integrated and balanced approaches to policy design and implementation, meaningful engagement and capacity building of all of constituents and stakeholders – all framed by a supportive institutional and legislative framework. The Debate is an opportunity to share early steps in implementation, challenges and opportunities to address them.

Questions for discussion

1. What steps are being taken to initiate and energize the 2030 Agenda – in particular anchoring political leadership, localizing the agenda and assessing national capacity?
2. What steps are being taken to create an enabling environment, including adapting institutional arrangements and legislation, and who must be engaged to promote ownership, accountability and inclusiveness?
3. How can policies be meaningfully anchored in the SDGs yet also aligned with existing national plans and global commitments such as the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC ?