

INVITATION

CSO coalitions' role in the Decade of Action after Covid-19 Official side event



8 July 2020 from 2 – 3.30pm CEST / 8 -9.30am EDT

This side event will be held online. Details for connection will be shared with all registered participants.

Participation is limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis.

Please register [here](#) before July 7 at 4pm CEST/10am EDT.

We are at a decisive moment for the implementation of the SDG with the UN launching the Decade of Action to make sure we realise the Goals by 2030 while governments and civil society are grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. This side event will explore the crucial role played by civil society organisations in guaranteeing a 'whole of society' approach in both the SDG monitoring and review process around Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as well as for the recovery measures after COVID-19. Civil society participation ensures that all voices are heard and that women, young people as well as particularly vulnerable groups are adequately involved to live up to the principle of leaving no one behind. This side event will provide you with an opportunity to exchange about civil society's role in working towards policy coherence for sustainable development and bringing transformative change during the Decade of Action.

This side event is organised jointly by:

Governments



Civil society organisations



This event has been organised with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents shared during the event are the sole responsibility of the speakers and participants and can under no circumstances be taken as reflecting the position of the European Union.

Agenda

Welcome words

Moderator: Patrizia Heidegger, SDG Watch Europe / European Environmental Bureau

Opening speech

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery, Austria

Setting the scene: global trends on CSOs and coalitions participation in SDGs political processes

Shannon Kindorney, Forus / Canadian Council for International Cooperation

Experience sharing in break-out groups

Break-out Group 1: VNRs – best-practices and lessons learned for meaningful CSO engagement

Input from: Lisa Weinberger, SDG Watch Austria; Lubna Sayed Qadri, Wada Na Todo Abhiyaan

Facilitator: Nadège Lharaig, European Environmental Bureau

Break-out Group 2: SDGs as the compass for COVID-19 measures - how to ensure civil society is not sidelined

Input from: Prof. Comfort Onifade, Civil Society Coalition for Sustainable Development; Marta Iglesias, Futuro en Común

Reaction from: Cillian Lohan, European Economic and Social Committee

Facilitator: Marie-Luise Abshagen, German NGO Forum on Environment and Development

Break-out Group 3: Cross-sectoral coalitions as amplifiers to have all voices heard

Input from: Florence Syevuo Kenya SDGs Forum; Marie-Laure Vercambre, French Water Partnership

Facilitator: Sylvie Bénard, Association 4D

Discussion with government representatives

Ione Belarra, State Secretary for the 2030 Agenda, Spain

Antonella Mei-Pochtler, Head of Strategy Unit Think Austria, Special Advisor to the Federal Chancellor, Austria

Rose Keff, Office of the Special Adviser to the President on SDGs, Nigeria

Diane Simiu, Deputy General Commissioner for Sustainable Development, Ministry for Fair and Ecological Transition, France

CSOs representatives of the break-out groups

Summary and closure of the side event

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