

Enabling environment for multi-stakeholder partnerships

March 29th 2017

Given the level of ambition set by the 2030 Agenda, implementing the commitments made by governments will require “to leave no one behind” nor any development actor to achieve a successful implementation of the SDGs. Even if Governments are responsible for their own development, the SDGs can't be reached without the active involvement of many non-governmental actors. All stakeholders must work together, leveraging their respective strengths to create beneficent situations to the global agenda implementation at national, regional and global levels.

To make this joint work possible, governments should create enabling environments, a set of political, legal, economic and socio-cultural conditions aimed to promote and facilitate the active and sustained engagement of different stakeholders in the SDGs implementation process.

In the 2030 Agenda, governments expressed that “democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development” (par. 9) and assumed that “national development efforts need to be

supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance” (par. 63). These assertions show clearly that in the 2030 implementation process, “enabling environment” is a two-fold expression referring at the same time to national and international frameworks to be created or strengthened.

The 2016 HLPF exposed that non-state actors are, with very few exceptions, far from enjoying an enabling environment framework. On one hand, the National Voluntary Reviews submitted by 22 countries were not always clear about non-government actors in its building processes; On the other hand, at the HLPF's 2016 closing 237 Civil Society Organizations sent a [letter to the President of ECOSOC](#) containing suggestions for the HLPF 2017, two of which had a close link with the creation of enabling environments, referring to give more time to member states to engage with each country's report “with inputs from major groups and other stakeholders” and requiring national review processes to strengthened “to be more inclusive, transparent, effective, and participatory”.

Key questions to be addressed during the session:

- How are countries dealing with their duty of promoting enabling environments for the SDGs implementation?
- How could the HLPF and regional forums promote for follow up processes the creation and strengthening of enabling environments at national and international levels?
- What are the main obstacles to be overcome at national and international levels to create enabling environments? Are they only at the government's side?
- Which specific areas require critical or urgent actions to establish enabling environments?

