



An HLPF 2019 Side Event

UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Addressing Inclusion, Inequality & Institutions

GRASSROOTS VIEWS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 4, 8, 10, 16 & 17—
AND THE LINKS BETWEEN THEM

WHEN

**2-3:45 PM
July 10, 2019**

WHERE

**10th Floor,
Church Centre for the UN
777 United Nations Plaza
(44th Street)**

ORGANIZED BY

MISEAN CARA

HOSTED BY

THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Abstract

In this side event, panelists from four of the countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF this year initiate a conversation regarding their participation with VNR processes in their countries along with the government and also as part of the civil society. They bring to the discussions their own grass roots experiences and learnings from engaging with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17 and explore the intersectionality of these goals and how important these goals are to achieve Inclusion, reduce Inequality, increase accountability to strengthen Institutions and forge effective networking. The conversations will suggest way forward to strengthen civil society participation in VNR processes and input into the larger conversations around reforming and strengthening the VNR mechanism.

Background

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals on Sept. 25, 2015, the global community set for itself an ambitious goal of eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and establishing global peace and justice by 2030. The meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council evaluates year by year the progress the global community has made in achieving these goals. Voluntary National Review as an integral part of the HLPF offers member states an opportunity and a platform to review and report their own progress in achieving SDGs.

Despite all these good intentions there is growing evidence that even as there is marked development there is increasing inequality across the globe. Indeed the engines that drive growth are also those that drive inequality. It is in this context that HLPF 2019 has set for itself the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." We realize that the goals under review during HLPF 2019 — namely goals 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17 — are at the very heart of the challenge of eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and global peace. The lack of access to quality education (goal 4) and decent employment (goal 8) — the outcome of flawed national policies — are the causes of poverty and inequality in most of the countries. This also leads to weak accountability mechanisms leading to injustice and resultant lack of peace.

ABOUT MISEAN CARA

Misean Cara is an Irish-based international missionary development movement, backed by Irish Aid, which supports education, health, livelihoods, human rights and emergency projects around the world. It particularly seeks to strengthen systems and build accountability for sustainable development, including delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

ABOUT THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

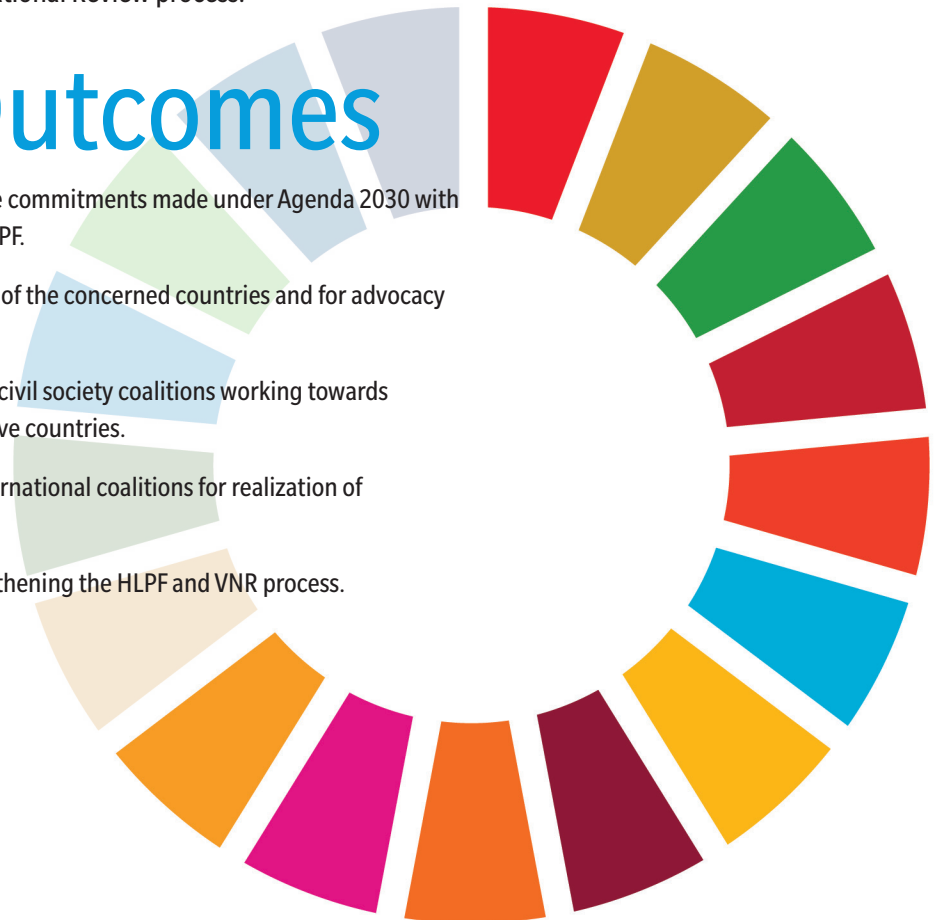
Through the Salesian Missions USA office, the Salesians hold special Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Fr. Thomas Pallithanam, S.D.B., serves as the representative, working at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Objectives

- To bring together as panelists, development practitioners and activists (particularly from South Africa, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Kenya engaged in pursuing Sustainable Development Goals 4,8,10, 16 and 17 into a conversation with other development practitioners, permanent missions and international NGOs to ensure that the voices of the excluded are heard.
- To present best practices in implementing programs that address these goals through the lens of “Leave No One Behind” and from a rights perspective.
- To engage in a dialogue with various stakeholders to identify the bottle necks and policy gaps that they encounter while trying to ensure that targets set in these goals are achieved.
- To initiate discussions that would lead to better engagement with civil society coalitions in these countries working to achieve agenda 2030, especially the goals under review.
- To explore the possibility of having a more rigorous civil society engagement in future Voluntary National Reviews.
- To forge stronger international cooperation to achieve the goal of Leave No One Behind.
- To contribute to the larger conversations around reforming and strengthening the High Level Political Forum and Voluntary National Review process.

Expected Outcomes

- Clear enunciation of policy asks for meeting the commitments made under Agenda 2030 with regard to the goals under review during this HLPF.
- Concrete plans for dissemination of VNR report of the concerned countries and for advocacy and lobbying based on the VNR report.
- Road map for joining and strengthening larger civil society coalitions working towards implementation of Agenda 2030 in the respective countries.
- Stronger alignment with both national and international coalitions for realization of Agenda 2030.
- Concrete suggestions for reforming and strengthening the HLPF and VNR process.



About the Session

KEY- NOTE ADDRESS:

Sandra Epal-Ratjen—International Advocacy Director, Franciscans International

Sandra will put the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process at the High-Level Political Forum in the context of a broader accountability framework, which should be in place through country processes and at global level, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. She will explore possibilities for building participation, learning, inclusion and human rights coherence at national and global levels, as a means of strengthening the multiple accountabilities needed to fulfil Agenda 2030's potential on sustainable development, eradication of poverty and combating climate change.

PANELISTS: 6 minute presentations

1. **Benson Osei-Savio Boateng**—Director, Research, Networking and Advocacy/Coordinator, Provincial Development Office, Anglophone West Africa Province of Salesians, from Ghana, presents best practices in SDG 8 through the lens of Leave No One Behind. Highlights the process followed in Ghana for the VNR and critically appraises it. Triggers discussions on policy asks, reform and strengthening of HLPF/VNR.
2. **Samuel Thomas Bojohn**—Assistant Director of Don Bosco Fambul, from Sierra Leone, addresses efforts made to make SDG 4 and 8 accessible to victims of trafficking and raise accountability levels through advocacy.
3. **Colin Kenneth Northmore**—Director, Three2Six, speaks about efforts in South Africa to make quality education (SDG 4) available to refugees and migrants, as well as about efforts to strengthen peace and justice through good governance.
4. **William Natal Keyah**—CEO, Inter-Congregation Sustainable Agriculture Program (ICSAP) addresses initiatives to support and promote knowledge and practice on sustainable agriculture. Also addresses SDGs 4 and 8 and draws lessons from previous VNRs of Kenya and Uganda.

MODERATOR: **Eamonn Casey**—Misean Cara, Ireland

RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD: **Wojciech Mroczek**—DBN, Rome



Sandra Epal-Ratjen



Benson Osei-Savio Boateng



Samuel Thomas Bojohn



Colin Kenneth Northmore



William Natal Keyah



Eamonn Casey



Wojciech Mroczek

