

I would like to make two points relative to the priority theme.

The 2030 Agenda is for People and the Planet, and calls for leaving no one behind in its implementation. Leaving no one behind should mean not only that everyone reap the eventual benefits of the better world the Agenda will bring, but that people from the grassroots should help design and lead the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Civil Society Organizations, in representation of grassroots communities and those most in need of the promised reforms and systemic changes listed in the 2030 Agenda should be in the room during the discussion process, prior to decision-making, because the people they represent know how change can happen much better than government agencies. And in fact no matter what governments may decree, real and lasting change only comes from the bottom up, so that people at the bottom, so to speak, need complete inclusion at every stage of the process. This would also be an excellent way to model the people-centered approach that can guarantee real progress. Again, “We the Peoples.”

People-centered decision-making will be prominently featured in the second thematic discussion at the annual Civil Society Forum on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Secondly, the sustainable development we so desperately need must not be based on GDP alone. GDP measurement is much too skewed and limited. There are other indexes and measurements of human need, activity and well-being that together present a truer test and ultimate criteria of the value and the reach of a development that leaves no one behind while responding to the basic hopes and needs of humankind.

As Member States struggle to get the Agenda back on track at this mid-point stage to 2030, two recommendations:

- (1) That the UN system more fully and meaningfully engage Civil Society Organizations in its discussions and decisions about social development, and
- (2) That other measures of health, opportunity and well-being be included in measuring the development that the world needs.