



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF), to be held in New York July 9-18, 2018, provides a unique and exciting opportunity for us to participate in the global achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The HLPF is so named because politicians and government leaders gather to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for the achievement of the SDGs. The theme for 2018 is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". At the HLPF 2018, 50 countries will share their progress to date on achieving the SDGs, including nine of our IBVM and CJ countries: Albania, Australia, Canada, Hungary, Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Vietnam.

This is our chance to work with our national governments to help make sure all of our countries will be on track to achieve the SDGs in 2030. Our governments need our help to identify gaps in achievement, weaknesses in policies and programmes, and areas that need to be strengthened. In the months prior to the HLPF in New York, there will be regional forums in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Western Asia (Arab region) that provide coordinated implementation and follow-up and review of the SDGs at a regional level. Members of the IBVM UN NGO network are encouraged to participate in these regional meetings.

The activities of the HLPF are divided into two parts:

The first part is comprised of the voluntary national reviews by countries, during which politicians and government officials will be present. During the national reviews, we are able to pose questions and deliver advocacy statements to our countries to help ensure we achieve the SDGs.

In the second part of the HLPF, the UN will present a series of expert discussions on a selection of the SDGs in order to gain a better understanding of what is required to achieve the goals. Concurrent to these two parts of the HLPF is the civil society activity. Throughout the two weeks, civil society groups, including our NGO, participate in side events – presentations and learning events on the SDGs.

The selected goals to be reviewed in depth in 2018 are:

- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



How do we participate in the HLPF 2018?

Through the IBVM UN NGO, we have access to the HLPF 2018 and through our involvement in the NGO Major Group at the UN, we are able to present questions to experts and government officials and to share our views through written statements and reports.

In the lead-up to the HLPF 2018, you can contribute in the following ways:

All members:

- 1. Prepare a reflection document.** You are invited to reflect on one of the six goals that will be examined in depth at the HLPF and to link it to an area of concern for your province. For example, you may wish to look at Goal 6 through the eyes of women, or through the lens of poverty. You may wish to look at Goal 11 from the perspective of human trafficking. In your reflection, we ask that you share the following:
 - a. Three (3) examples of successes occurring in your country.
 - b. Three (3) areas that need improvement.
 - c. Any proposals for helping to achieve that particular goal.Your UN Province Representative will coordinate the reflection document with you.
- 2. Prepare questions or a short advocacy statement.** Where there is the capacity, you are encouraged to work with members of your ministries and your associates and other networks to conduct basic research on one or more of the SDGs being discussed in depth at the HLPF. The intended result of your research is to prepare a list of questions or a short advocacy statement (1/2 page in length) that can be shared during the HLPF or at a regional forum. You can focus on issues of concern or proposals for practices and initiatives that could help in the achievement of the SDGs.

Members In countries that will be reviewed at the HLPF:

- 1. Participate in civil society engagement with national governments as they prepare for the review.**

You are encouraged to contact your national government to find out how civil society is being included in the development of your review and to participate in government meetings.
- 2. Participate in regional forums.**

You are encouraged to explore the possibility of attending the regional forum of your region that will be hosted in the months leading up to the HLPF 2018. Meeting dates for 2018 will be updated [here](#).
- 3. Prepare a list of questions or a short advocacy statement to be presented during your country's review.**

Where there is the capacity, you are encouraged to work with members of your ministries and your associates and other networks to conduct research on areas where your country needs to strengthen its activity in order to achieve the SDGs. You can focus on one SDG that is most relevant to your work.

The intended result of your research is to prepare a list of questions that could be asked during the country reviews, or a short advocacy statement (1/2 page in length) on an issue of concern. These could also be shared at a regional forum.