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Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Reviewing progress and implementation: Making the most of the HLPF's reviews after 2015

HLPF, July 2nd 2014, New York

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Resolution 67/290, July 2013

“Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:



Resolution 67/290, July 2013

- (a) Shall be *voluntary*, while *encouraging reporting*, and shall include *developed and developing* countries, as well as relevant *UN entities*;
- (b) Shall be *State-led*, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
- (c) Shall provide a *platform for partnerships*, including through the *participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders*;
- (d) Shall replace the *national voluntary presentations* held in the context of the ... [AMR], building upon (...) experiences and lessons learned in this context”

Spur action via a *regular review*

- *voluntary, state-driven process, equal treatment*
- geared at *constructive learning, experience sharing, identify replicable and scalable actions &*
- *effective support for implementation at national level* (providing incentives for countries to participate)
- but also *mutual review and accountability* (first and foremost to own citizenry → involve Parliaments, civil society, and other stakeholders at national level)
- *Basis: post-2015 agenda/SDGs provide for measurable and time-bound global goals, targets and indicators*
- *Follow-up* should be discussed *now* so that countries are comfortable to commit to ambitious goals

ECOSOC's "Annual Ministerial Review"

Mandate:

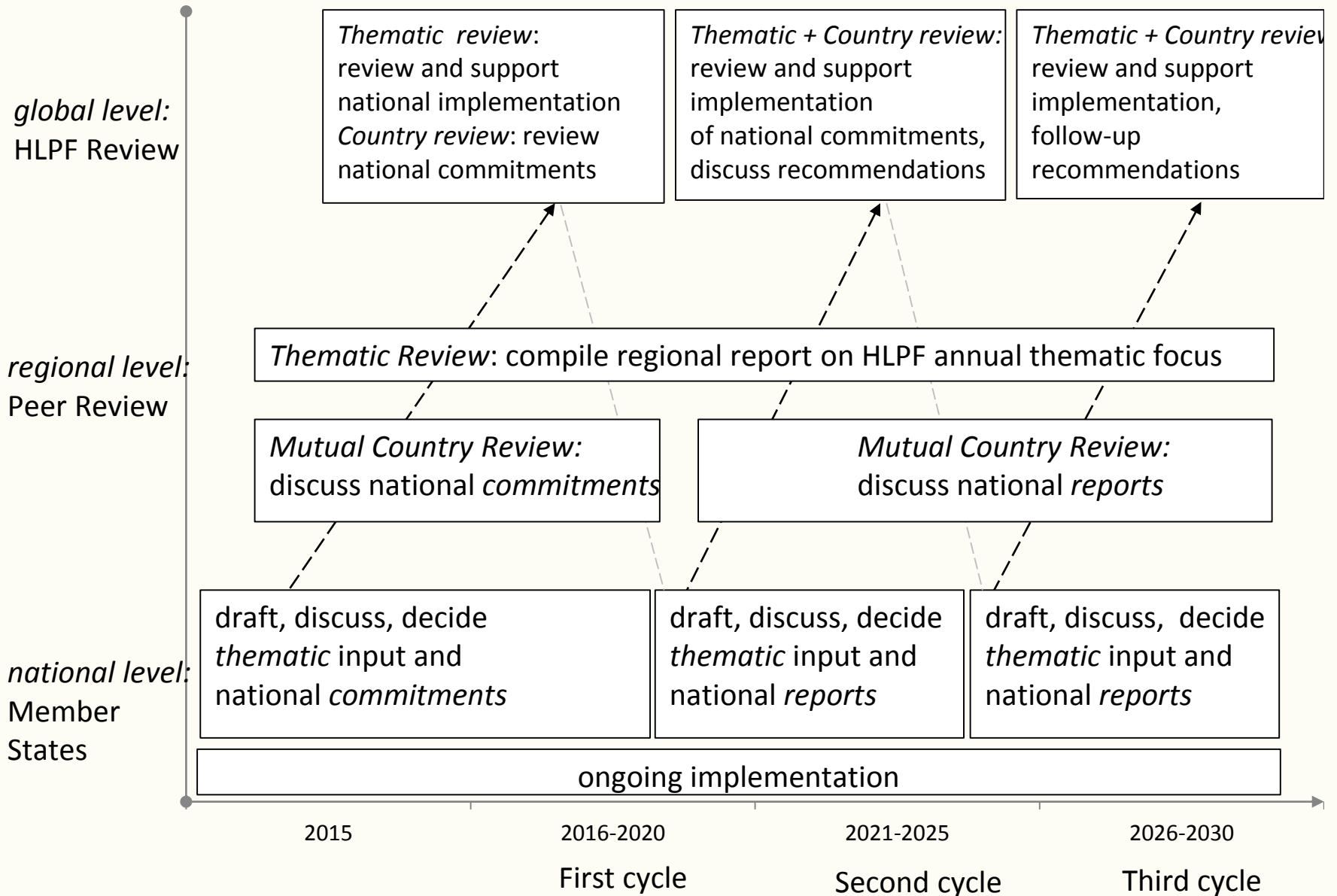
- *Assess progress* made towards the implementation of the goals and targets agreed at the major UN conferences and summits (above all the MDGs)
- Contribute to *scaling-up and accelerating action*, serving as global high-level forum with broad-based participation, where *lessons learned* are exchanged and *successful practices and approaches* that merit scaling-up are identified
- main elements:
 - *thematic review and global review of the agenda*
 - *national voluntary presentations*
of both developing and developed countries on their progress in implementing internationally agreed goals

ECOSOC's “Annual Ministerial Review”

Lessons learned:

- Needs better *incentives* for countries to participate
- Needs to be more *bottom-up* and *multi-level*, linked to national implementation, using visibility of HLPF at global level
- Needs to be an *accountability* framework, go beyond sharing best practice
- Have *template* for national voluntary presentations for comparability, also addressing *problems and challenges* for national-level implementation
- Allow for more meaningful *participation* of major groups and other stakeholders at all levels (ECOSOC rules)
- Needs better *follow-up*, a “regular review”, following up recommendations

Process: Commit and Review



1) Bottom-up process & multi-level design

- start at *national level* with countries translating post-2015 goals into *national* time-bound targets & commitments (enables a *differentiated* approach according to national circumstances, priorities and capacities)
- *regional reviews*: UN regional commissions and institutions could support members of five UN regional groups with discussing and reviewing their commitments and progress; provide support if they want to go global (building on existing review mechanisms like APRM)
- *global HLPF part of the review* (under the auspices of ECOSOC) (focus on how to spur *national* implementation)

2) Thematic and Mutual Country Review

Voluntary review at HLPF – two complementary types:

- *Thematic review*: UN entities and regional commissions (drawing on national data) could prepare a report on ECOSOC/HLPF *annual theme* (annually, starting in 2016, replacing AMR, building on sectoral reviews, DCF, UPR ...) → *with currently 17 goals it would take too long to cover all priority areas/goals, so complement with:*
- *Mutual country review*: Annually ask countries of *one* of the five UN regional groups (in three five-year cycles) to
 - first produce *commitments* (starting in 2016) and
 - later a *report* (starting in 2021) on the implementation of their *own country commitments*
 - replacing AMR-NVPs, *improve* review process

3) Process: Commit and Review

First round of Mutual Country Reviews (2016-20):

- discuss the state party-established *commitments* incl. *necessary support/means of implementation*
→ to check level of *ambition* (avoid business as usual) but also the availability of *means of implementation* and also check *fairness/equity* aspects and ensure that all commitments *add up* to global goals (in aggregate).

Second round of Mutual Country Reviews:

- (2021-2025) *reports on and assessment of progress/successes and gaps/barriers* and of the *necessary support/means of implementation* to do even better during next cycle
- (2026-2030): ... + *review recommendations*

Mutual Country Review: Process

- *invite* countries of one regional group to *present commitments and reports, successes and challenges*
 - *interactive dialogue* (replacing AMR-NVP)
- *supplemented* by *compilation of information*
 - by *UN entities* (drawing on existing monitoring and reviews),
 - by *Major Groups and other stakeholders*
 - (by *experts* for new and emerging, neglected issues)
- Troika drafts *outcome report with recommendations*, reviewed state may and should *comment* all of them
- discuss *outcome reports with comments* during HLPF
- discuss *overall outcome of Thematic and Country Review* during HLPF ministerial segment → *political guidance*
- *report* to General Assembly
- focus on *reviewing recommendations* during next cycle

4) Assess Needs and Means of Implementation

- during first round of review assess also **needs** ↔ **means of implementation** of countries under review
- identify *gaps in financing and other capacity problems* for successful implementation
- assess how to mobilize potential *domestic sources*
- provide for *access* to adequate and tailored financial and technical support, best practices and successful policies, using the existing funds and mechanisms for capacity development (according to their respective mandates) plus innovative sources of financing, partnerships etc.
- for all *donor* countries: also assess compliance with *financial and other commitments*

Participation of Civil Society

Accountability of governments: first and foremost to *own citizens*

→ HLPF should ask countries (incentives?)

to involve civil society and other stakeholders at the national and local level in drafting and discussing commitments, reports, and recommendations

→ Options:

- publish *national sustainable development strategy*
- full *access to information* (i.a. monitoring data)
- consultations and dialogues (informed, timely, meaningful input)
- *National Sustainable Development Councils* (NSDCs)
- national peer reviews, third party reviews
- ombudsperson, complaints mechanism
- Parliamentary commission, regular hearings

Participation of Civil Society

During HLPF review:

- *transparency*: HLPF resolution allows representatives of major groups and other stakeholders to attend “all official meetings of the forum”, UN web tv, access to information
- *written statements*: civil society (shadow) reports (full reports online, to avoid overload have secretariat prepare synthesis report, as in UPR)
- *oral statements*
(maybe not during voluntary presentations but during plenary debate of report, as in UPR; morning meetings)
- virtual participation via *e-discussion* (as in AMR)
- in parallel: campaigns and own platforms, side events

A “platform for partnerships” and voluntary initiatives

LEADING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE WE WANT

Sustainable Development in Action

SD IN ACTION REGISTRY OF VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES

- Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments
- Higher Education Sustainability Initiative
- Every Woman Every Child
- Global Compact
- Sustainable Energy for All
- Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- Green economy policies

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High-level political forum on Sustainable Development

.. to provide political leadership on sustainable development in the intergovernmental process;
.. to subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);
.. expected to convene its first session at the start of the 68th session of the General Assembly (September 2013)



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Higher Education
Sustainability
Initiative



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL



Green
economy



Reviewing Partnerships and voluntary initiatives

“A platform for partnerships” ... = annual reporting to HLPF ... if so – how?

- ▶ *HLPF Mutual Country Review*: include national SD partnerships
- ▶ *HLPF Thematic Review*: include those trans/national SD partnerships with a focus on the annual ECOSOC/HLPF theme
- ▶ *Partnership Forum/Facility*: Review annual reports of all registered initiatives → outcome report discussed at HLPF
- ▶ *Private, business & civil society reporting*: use own platforms
- ▶ *HLPF political guidance*: Provide guidelines and criteria for new Post-2015 partnerships

What is needed and to be decided?

- *HLPF - Practicalities:*
 - *agree* on how to build this review process
 - *secretariat services* for preparatory and follow-up process, support for presenting countries
 - *integrate existing reviews and reports*
(e.g. DCF, UPR, OECD, UNFCCC, WTO, G20, APRM, APEC > appoint coordinators (TST); also align private reporting, broad and meaningful involvement of major groups + other stakeholders)
 - *support*: fund for financial & technical assistance to collect necessary data, prepare reports and review
- *Political will* to make the most out of HLPF's mandate

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