SIDE EVENT – FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNSDG LAC Event coordinated by UN WOMEN and UNAIDS

Conference room: Celso Furtado

SANTIAGO, 25TH APRIL 2019

13:00 – 14:30

VOICE AND ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE 2030 AGENDA

I. Context

The Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development is a regional mechanism for monitoring and examining the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including means of implementation, in addition to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.

The Forum involves the States, the private sector and civil society, as well as the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, United Nations agencies and regional integration bodies to provide peer learning spaces, exchange of good practices and discussion of common goals. The first meeting of the Forum was held under the chairmanship of Mexico in Mexico City from 26th to 28th April 2017; and the second meeting took place in Santiago de Chile from 18th to 20th April 2018, also under the chairmanship of Mexico.

The third meeting of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 24th to 26th April 2019.

Prior to the start of the Forum Meeting, civil society and other relevant actors will hold activities on 22th to 23th April.

II. Overview of the role of civil society in the 2030 Agenda

Civil society plays a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through different experiences, it has been shown that the contributions of people organized in associations and groups that make up civil society for the achievement of the SDGs, imply an added value related to the fact that their responses are usually organic and more appropriate to the needs of the different beneficiary communities, which guarantees its success and sustainability.

This principle, it is fully in the motto of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019: "Empowering people and ensuring inclusion and equity" and with the 6 SDG to be covered this year, referring to
the political objectives related to issues concerning capacity building, equity, governance and synergies:

In a particular way, SDG 16 and 17 directly address the role of civil society.

The Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25th September 2015 indicates that "The Goals and targets are the result of over two years of intensive public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world, which paid particular attention to the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable". For example, women's organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean played a key role in defining SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.

It also affirms the role of society in the context of this new Agenda, in the following approach:

"The scale and ambition of the new Agenda requires a revitalized Global Partnership to ensure its implementation [and] intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources."

The role of civil society is not only focused on the implementation of targets and goals, but also on the strategies that are applied to achieve them. It is essential to monitor that the processes and institutions created for implementation, follow-up and review are open, inclusive, transparent and gender-responsive1. UNAIDS recognizes that since the onset of the epidemic, organized communities have been at the vanguard in the responses to HIV at the global level. More than 30 years of experience show significant advances, sustainable results and important achievements, where civil society has played a key role in actions related to prevention, care and support, defending human rights and reducing gender inequalities. From this experience, one that see that

civil society tends to have four areas of incidence that are fundamental for the achievement of the SDGs: a) Participation in accountability mechanisms, forming part of national monitoring mechanisms; b) the provision of services related to the targets set for each SDG; c) research that generates evidence of progress or setbacks and d) mobilizing resources and funding for initiatives.

In fact, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the national mechanisms for SDG monitoring and accountability include civil society. However, an analysis of 20 national SDG monitoring mechanisms in the region shows that only 50% of these mechanisms formally include civil society. Member States also involve civil society in the development of SDG voluntary national reviews, but this does not happen systematically in all the countries of the region.

III. Objetives

**General:**

Support the dialogue between governments and civil society in the framework of the monitoring and implementation of 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Specifics:**

1. Identify mechanisms and perspectives to achieve greater and better inclusion of civil society, especially those lagging behind, in accountability mechanisms, service delivery, research and resource mobilization for SDG implementation, in particular the SDGs reviewed by the HLPF in 2019.

2. To share experiences and good practices of inclusive and transparent national SDG monitoring mechanisms of the region reflecting the participation and contribution of civil society.

3. To propose actions that strengthen regional alliances between representatives of governments and civil society, to support the fulfilment of the objectives and goals revised by the HLPF in 2019.

IV. Methodology of the event

The event will be carried out through a panel made up of representatives from the civil society, specifically of key groups (indigenous, people living with HIV, etc.) that are part of organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to representatives of national governments of the region. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Cesar Nuñez, Regional Director of UNAIDS.
V. Programme:

13:00 – 13:15: Opening remarks by Maria Noel Vaeza, Regional Director, UN Women, Regional Office of the Americas and the Caribbean, and his Excellency, Alfredo Moreno Charme, Minister of Social Development of Chile (to be confirmed).

13:15 -13:25: Intervention on the role of civil society organizations in SDG implementation, Alessandra Nilo, GESTOS

13:25 – 13:35: Intervention on how to improve participation of civil society organizations to achieve the SDGs in LAC, Nina Guaman, Continental Liaison of Indigenous Women in the Americas (ECMIA)


Presentation of the "mira que te miro" tool, Maia Sofia Gómez, Plan International.

13:55- 14:10 Intervention of his Excellency, Alfredo Moreno Charme, Minister of Social Development of Chile, on the national SDG monitoring mechanism, national voluntary reviews, and the role of civil society in these mechanisms in Chile (to be confirmed).

14:10 – 14:25: Questions and answers with the audience

14:25 – 14:30: Closing of the event